THE INDEPENDENT

INSIDETODAY

THE EYE Fry's Oscar declares his genius 18/WOMEN The new career fear

TODAY'S NEWS

Sixth formers pay up

Sixth form colleges are charging students fees of up to-£120 to enrol for A-level courses despite the fact that the law says tuition must be free for students up to the age of 18. A survey by The Independent shows that two-thirds of colleges are charging by asking students to pay registration fees or to contribute towards books.

Carpetbaggers outed

Britain's largest remaining building society, the Nationwlde, has introduced a scheme to deter carpetbaggers, by forcing new customers to donate any future windfall bonuses to charity.

Road-rage clue

of David Rep

in the wind to be

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Police have released vital details about the car used by a road-rage driver to ram the back of a young couple's vehicle and force them off the road to their deaths. It is believed that the driver of the light-coloured saloon deliberately slammed into the back of the couple's can three times because he was angry they were keeping to the speed limit. Page 6

Paedophiles reined in

Ministers are looking at a package of new measures to protect children from abuse, including banning sex offenders from places where they might be likely to re-offend. The measures could be introduced first in

Whitehall cull?

John Major's former press secretary, Jonathan Haslam, yesterday became the seventh senior Whitehall press officer to resign or move post since the election. The departure of a third of government information chiefs heightened suspicions that a Whitehall cull is being carried out by Mr Haslam's successor at Number 10, Alastair Campbell, Tony Blair's chief press secretary, and Peter Mandelson, the minister without portfolio. Page 10

Shell goes green

By 2050, half the world's energy is going to come from renewable sources such as sunshine, wind, running water and green plants rather than from oil, gas, coal and nuclear fission, according to a scenario set out by the Shell oil company yesterday. It said it would be investing £300m over the next five years in expanding its capacity to make solar cells and in growing trees to be hurnt in electricity-generating power stations. It is a shift environmentalists have long been demanding.

SEEN & HEARD

The mystery of what some people keep in their private bank safes has been solved. Not ingots of gold bullion but bars of stolen soap - and a ham salad. These were among the more unusual items discovered when a fire at the Credit Lyonnais bank in Paris forced staff to open the boxes. Other, less conventional, items were a felt hat, jam and a bottle of whisky.;

However, the more obvious trappings of wealth were also unearthed. One customer emptied his safe of about 100 paintings, including some by Picasso, Marisse and Chagail - kept at the bank because he already had 2,000 hanging in his home.



WEATHER The Eye, page 26 TELEVISION The Eye, page 28 CROSSWORDS Page 32 and

Giraffe women emerge from a forgotten world



About 50,000 Padaung survive in eastern Burma, one of the hundreds of small ethnic groups that have been cut coconut and royal jelly, when they are 10. More are added & Nicolson

ing the traditional metal coils that are supposed to enhance which is at war with some of them and bars most visitors fast dying out under the pressures of war and assimilation.

The metal rings are first fitted to girls' necks, oiled with Richard K Diran, published at £40 next month by Weidenfeld

Smokers' families 25% more likely to get cancer

Shocking new research results show that living with a smoker increases the risk of heart disease and cancer by a quarter. Our Health Editor says the finding increases the likelihood of a Government ban on smoking in public places.

Tens of thousands of people die prematurely each year as a result of years spent hreathing tobacco smoke in the air around them. Scientists say that non-smokers who live with a smoker have a 23 per cent incent increased risk of lung cancer, even though they inhale only I per cent of the

It makes little difference whether the person you live with smokes ten or 60 cigarettes a day. The lethal dose is lower than has been realised and any extra exposure makes only a small difference.

The finding, by researchers from the Wolfson Institute for Preventive Medicine in London, is the most definitive evidence will add to the tobacco industry's woes. It 'search." suggests that the Government could cut heart disease deaths at a stroke by banning smoking in public places - an achievement that 20 years of cajoling about the nation's diet has failed to secure.

Tessa Jowell, minister for public health. said that the findings of the study, which was commissiooed by the health department inside a "compelling case" for action. The Government is to publish a White Paper on tobacco control, expected next

"These are shocking figures, bearing in mind these are people who choose oot to smoke ... We are considering action to promote more smoke-free public places. It is not fair that people have no choice but to endure cigarette smoke, especially in the light of its known harmful effects," Ms Jow-

Unprecedented security surrounded release of the research which is published in tomorrow's British Medical Journal. Its editor, Dr Richard Smith, said be feared the tobacco industry might seek an injunction preventing distribution of the journal because it would strengthen the hand of nonsmokers who had contracted lung cancer and

were considering legal action. The researchers analysed 19 studies of heart disease involving 6,600 cases and 37 studies of lung cancer involving 4,600 cases. They say they were astonished by the results on heart disease which were not

Dr Malcolm Law, one of the authors, said: "We had always thought the risks of creased risk of heart disease and a 26 per smoking were proportional to the amount smoked. In the case of heart disease, they

BY JEREMY **LAURANCE**

yet of the dangers of passive smoking and aren't. That is what is oovel about this re-

The finding shows that a small exposure to tobacco has a large effect on heart disease. Although non-smokers breathe only 1 per cent of the smoke taken by smokers their risk of heart disease rises by almost one third of that of smokers (whose risk is increased by 80 per cent). The reason is, the researchers say, that the body's blood-clot-'ting system is very sensitive to small amounts of smoke.

Lung cancer is 20-fold higher in smokers but the risk in this case is proportional to the amount smoked. Passive smokers suffer a 25 per cent increase in risk despite ab-

sorbing only one per cent of the smoke. In health terms, the finding on heart disease is more important because, unlike lung cancer, it is common among non-smokers and any increase in risk translates into thousands of extra cases.

But in legal terms, the finding on lung cancer is more important because a nonsmoker who lives with a smoker and develops lung cancer could have a case against a tobacco company. It would be much barder for a non-smoker to prove that heart disease was the direct result of

living with a smoker. The finding will require the tobacco industry to re-write advertisements such as that put out by Philip Morris which compared the risks of passive smoking to drinking a glass of milk or eating a hiscuit.

An editorial in the BMJ dismisses the advertisement as "inane" and compares it to the industry's denials of the hazards

of active smoking in past decades.

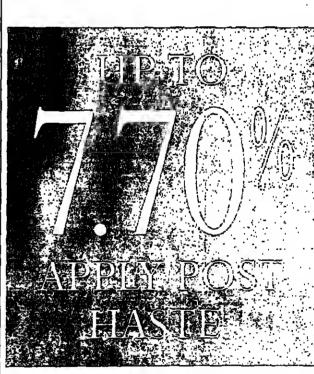
The British Medical Association said the research was the latest blow to the tobacco manufacturers in little more than

A major UK cancer charity bas announced plans to refuse funds to researchers who accept "tainted" lobacco mooey, airline attendants in the US have won a \$300m (£190m) settlement for the effects of passive smoking, new research published in the UK medical journal Thorax shows children of mothers who smoke suffer 70 per cent more respiratory illnesses and a report from the US Environmental Protectioo Agency in California linked passive smoking to cot

death, heart disease and asthma. Dr Bill O'Neill, science and research adviser to the BMA, said: "The oew evidence has lessons for individual smokers who are exposing their loved ones to needless risk, as well as employers, pub and restaurant owners who all have a responsibility to eliminate tobacco smoke from public places.

"The tobacco industry must oow stop its pathetic attempts to evade the evidence and accept that eigarcties not only harm and kill those who smoke them, they harm and kill non-smokers, too."

A spokesman for the Tobacco Manufacturers' Association said it would examine the study and take note of its



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trademarks of Abber National plc, Abber House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XL.



COLUMN ONE

Nature keeps a balance as tiny creature vanishes

Extinctions are the greatest of tragedies. An entire species is lost for eternity. But even the most romantic and dedicated of marine hiologists must admit that the world may be able to get along without Iveil's sea anemone, news of whose demise emerged yesterday.

It was discovered 24 years ago in a small, salt-water lagoon at Shoreham, on the West Sussex seaside, by Richard Ivell, a graduate zoology student at Oxford University. It was quite new to science, and was given the official name Edwardsia ivelli. To have a creature named after you is a great coup for any hiologist, even more so for a young one.

Mr Ivell's find was only three millimetres long, and almost colourless. It spent most of its life burrowing in the appermost layer of mud in the lagoon; it had nine tentacles, each about six millimetres long, which it spread out through the coze in search of food.

The creature was only ever found in that one location on a few occasions. When the lagoon, cut off from the sea by a shingle hank, was thoroughly searched a few years later, in 1983, the anemone - a fairly simple kind of animal - had disappeared.

Last month, a marine biology consultant carried out a new and exhaustive search, commissioned by the World Wide Fund for Nature. He too failed to find the anemone and so the fund is pronouncing the species extinct. All that remains are a few pickled specimens in little jars, kept at the Oxford Museum.

"This is a sad day for British conservation," said Callum Rankine, of WWF-UK. "It does not bode well for the future to lose such a rare species." He speculates that changes in salinity and temperature in the lagoon were to blame. The sea anemone was one of 116 very rare or declining British plant and animal species covered by "action plans" agreed between the Government and the nation's leading wildlife conservation bodies, such as WWF. The action plan for this species consisted mainly of trying to find it. The man who formally introduced the species to the scientific world is Richard Manuel, a technician at Oxford University who wrote a paper describing the anemone in great detail in the Journal of Natural History. And he believes it may not be extinct. "Perhaps it lives in other countries, but never has been found and described. There are saline lagoons on the other side of the Channel in France with crystal clear water - perhaps it lives there," he said. Mr Ivell, by the way, now lives in Germany.

The last species unique to Britain to enter the eternal night of extinction was a grass, Bromus interruptus. But not quite. It only actually died out in the wild in 1972, but lives on a botanical garden.

But even as we lose one species, we gain another. For nature con-



little egret (above) has begun breeding in Britain. Global warming may be the explanation.

It is a small, snowy white heron which lives in the Middle East and along the shores of the Mediterranean. But this sub-tropical species has gradually been moving north. Before the war it was unknown in Britain, but its numbers have been creeping up as it flies over from northern France. Several hundred can be present along the south coast of England at the same time. The question was - when would they become breeding residents? The Wildlife Trusts, a nationwide coalition of county conservation groups, said it had proof that the egrets have now nested and successfully raised young for two years at two sites along the Dorset Coast, one of them Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour.

- Nicholas Schoon

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PEOPLE



Clarke faces the music over new tobacco job

It looked as though Kenneth Clarke had never had it so good. Having shrugged off his defeat by William Hague for the leadership of the Conservative Party, the cigar-loving former Chancellor yesterday picked up a lucrative directorship with a tobacco conglomerate, made his debut as a disc jockey and starred in an Oxford Union debate.

But, after emerging as Nottinghamshire's answer to Chris Evans and Zoe Ball, the day began to spin out of control as Mr Clarke came under withering fire for accepting a seat on the board of the cigarette giant, British American Tobacco (BAT).

"As a former Health Secretary, Clarke should be ashamed of himself," said Clive Bates, director of Action on Smoking and Health. "Clarke's move again reveals the last government's cosy links with the tobacco industry.

Before being attacked for accepting his third highly paid job in the City after leaving the Treasury. the former Chancellor had moved effortlessly from spinning reports about the "booming" British . went out, Mr Clarke headed off for the Oxford economy to spinning jazz records as a part-time DJ. "Jazz is a serious business - so serious, I'm prepared to do it free and for love," he said.

But, as Mr Clarke was preparing to play for the sial, day. love of it, he also announced he had secured the

nice little earner with the tobacco company. BAT refused to disclose his salary, but it could run into six figures. Mr Clarke is also non-executive chairman of UniChem, the chemists group, for which he is paid a salary of £120,000 for between one-anda-half and two days a week.

As Home Secretary, Mr Clarke (above) once appointed Sir Patrick Sheeby, then chairman of BAT, to investigate police pay and promotion. Sir Patrick left the company two years ago, but Mr Clarke will join the board as non-executive deputy chairman, the company said. He is also non-executive director of Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust, the UK's oldest fund manager, where he earns £18,000 for one day a month attending a board meeting.

An habitué of jazz clubs such as Ronnie Scott's since the Sixties, Mr Clarke last night was offering local listeners a wide range of jazz music "from King Oliver to Ornette Coleman".

To round off his day, as his recorded jazz show Union. to join John Redwood and Alan Duncan in a censure debate on the Blair government.

The perfect end to a profitable, but controver-

- Colin Brown

Beckinsale leaves her mark on a city pavement



Actress Kate Beckinsale is revelling in the success of ber new film, Shooting Fish. Premiered this week at the Odeon West End in London's Leicester Square, the film is garnering good reviews despite being rejected two television companies. Eventually it was made with the help of a £1m lottery grant. Asked if she thinks the part lottery-funded movie

will be a hit, she said: "I don't know if people will like this but we had a great time making it." Beckinsale is currently filming Broke Down Palace in New York, about two girls imprisoned in

Thailand for heroin smuggling. Ms Beckinsale left the gala first ing ber mark in plaster for Leicester Square's pavement handprint display. She joins an illustrious line of actors there, including Arnold Schwarzenegger

Tonypandy denounced by former Tory MP

Lord Tonypandy, the revered Commons Speaker was in the early 1960s, when I was a clerk of the a distinguished bistorian and former Tory MP today as "an arrogant, sanctimonious, deceitful and malicious hully".

And, in the astonishing attack, Sir Robert Rhodes James said there were those who regarded him "as a fraud and a charlatan, cager to bend the knee to anyone above his station and thinly contemptuous of anyone deemed to be below it".

Sir Robert, who was a clerk of the House of Commons before he became an MP will stoke up outrage at this onslaught which appears in the Spectator magazine under the heading "Not As Nice as All That". He recalls: "My first encounter with George [George Thomas was his original name]

who died last month aged 88, was denounced by House of Commons and he was chairing his first standing committee. It was a fairly insignificant committee dealing with private members' hills, hut George behaved as though he was the new beadmaster of a turbulent school which needed to be taught a severe lesson. His harshness was directed less at the Members than at the hapless officials: he bawled out the policeman at the door for not closing it on time; he was nasty to the Hansard reporters; he treated me with contemptuous disdain Unsurprisingly, we deeply distiked him, regarding him as an arrogant, sanctimonious, deceitful and malicious bully."

> He added: "The mutual antipathy between him and the clerks was to survive during his Speakership".

UPDATE

RETAIL

Supermarkets to serve food safety

The creation of a Food Safety Agency may reassure the public but will have only a small part to play in ensuring the food on our tables is safet, according to research by the Economic and Social Research Council which says that standards of food quality are increasingly driven by the big five

Sainsbury, Tesco, Safeway, Gateway/Somerfield and Asda have 67 per cent of the packaged grocery market and, says the report, "are the new masters of the food system". With Marks & Spencer it has been the supermarkets who have developed quality definitions for food, hygiene and hazard systems which go well beyond existing safety and hygiene laws. The grocers also regulate their own food supply chains.

The authors reveal that although the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has given the go-ahead to sales of irradiated food, sales in the UK are small because supermarkets won't touch it because they think their customers won't buy it. The work of environmental health officers and trade. ing standards officers has also changed because of the superleague of gro-cers. Now officers do not regulate the stores so much as test their management systems. The authors conclude that the Food Safety Agency cannot compete with the supermarkets but should make it its priority. to oversee the independent sector of the grocery trade and encourage putlie understanding of food nygiene.

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Skaters in a spin over headaches



Skaters who go into a spin are at higher risk of migraine, scientists have found. Spins performed by freestyle skaters appear to mimic migraine by forcing blood away from the centre of the brain. During a migraine attack, blood vessels inside the head contract, starving the brain of blood in a similar way. Researchers in the United States found that 22 per cent. of skaters who performed spins suffered from migraine, compared with 4 per cent who avoided spins. Although it is impossible to say whether the sport causes migraine or merely tips someone with a tendency into an attack, the researchers say almost two thirds of skaters with migraine say their problems began after taking it up.

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OF July

FINANCE

Retail cards take more of the credit

Sales via retail credit cards have more than doubled since 1993, according to a new report, Retail Credit Cards, but unless they offer the right incentives and benefits they could lose out to other credit cards.

Among the adult population more than four out of five now own one

more plastic cards with almost 97 million cards in issue. But the increasingly competitive credit card market retail credit cards currently offer the customer little incentive to choose them over other forms of plastic says Mintel, who published the report.

• Retail Credit Cards is available from Mintel price £545: 0171-606 6000 ---- Glenda Cooper

TOURIST RATES Australia (dollars) 2,704 212 Italy (lira) 19,34 Austria (schillings) 193.09 Belgium (francs) 56,84 Maita (lira) 0.6 Canada (\$) 2.19 Netherlands (guilders) 3.10 (1.48 Cyprus (pounds) 0.81 Norway (kroner) Portugal (escudos) Denmark (kroner) 10.54 278.49 France (francs) 9.22 Spain (pesetas) 231.74 Germany (marks) 2.76 Sweden (kroner) 12,02 Greece (drachmei) 436.66 Switzerland (francs) 2.3 Hong Kong (\$) 12.17 Turkey (lira) 276, 195 USA (\$) 1.07 Ireland (punts) 1.59 errors Coo

"Whatever was the name of that chap who was Prime Minister this time last year?" Ah, how quickly we forget. But you can always look up the answer with LineOne, the invaluable information and Internet service. LineOne carnes archives of leading British newspapers going back over twelve months, so it's simple to refer back to last year's major stories. Try LineOne and the Internet FREE. Call 0800 111 210. It's what you want to know

NEWS SPORT WHAT'S ON FUN KNOWLEDGE MONEY SHOPPING TALK INTERNET

Botham finds himself on a sticky wicket

Former England cricket captain Ian Botham vesterday hit back at his former solicitors after they served a writ on him for allegedly not paying them £100,000 in fees.

The firm, Swepstone Walsh, has demanded the payment in full of legal bills relating to Botham's illfated libel action against former Pakistan cricket captain, Imran Khan.

But Botham countered in a statement released by his new solicitors, Meer, Care & Desai, saying he was "extremely surprised and hurt at this totally unjustified course of action". The statement continued: "Ian Botham has today been served with a writ by his former solicitors, Swepstone and Walsh, alleging non-payment of their fees.

"Mr Botham has already paid substantial sum on account of their fees. He has, on professional advice, made no further payment until the receipt of a detailed and itemised bill. "The matter has been placed in

the hands of new solicitors acting for Mr Botham."

Botham and former England colleague Allan Lamb sued Imran for libel in the High Court last year, but lost the case.



7.30 FOR 8

CHRISTIAN' ALLIES MOUNTING AN ARMED DEFENCE OF JERUSALEM AGHINST THE HEATHEN SALADIN / SADAM, WITH OIL AS THE HOLY HELLO . HELLO, AM I BORING You?





by Chris Priestley

by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



Sixth-formers forced to pay to study for A-levels

Sixth-form colleges are charging students upfront fees of up to £120 to enrol for A-levels courses although, by law, tuition must be free for students up to the age of 18. Lucy Word and Louise Honcock found cashstrapped colleges asking parents to bail them

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More than two-thirds of sixth form colleges are asking students in pay registration fees or contribute towards books or examination costs, according to an Independent survey

Though some are charging as little as £5 nr £10, many more, particularly in affluent areas of the South-east, are asking for sums of £100 or more, generating tens of thousands nf pounds annually for college funds.

Principals say they are levying charges nr asking for named voluntary contributions with great reluctance, but insist they must find alternative sources of income when state funding is ports in the sector, new students too low to protect quality. They protest that colleges are being expected to compete for students with school sixth forms despite receiving significantly lower funding.

The growing trend, which has seen dozens of sixth form colleges introduce or raise charges or requests for cootrihutinns this term, is raislog alarm among many principals.

charging", which is not being monitored nationally, is concealing serinus inadequacies amine the growth of charging in the funding of sixth-form

The issue will also raise questions for the Government over how far private individuals should be asked to subsidise state education. Ministers have already taken the decision to charge students for part nf their university tuitinn fees from next year.

Legally, sixth-form colleges are not permitted to charge tuition fees for full-time students aged 16 to 18, but each institutinn is free to charge for registration, exam fees or books and other materials.

The Independent's survey of 60 colleges - just over half the total - revealed examples such as the College of Richard Collyer in Horsham, West Sussex, where students are asked in pay a £120 registration fee for their two-year course, and buy their own books and materials at an estimated cost of £26 a year.

The fee, up from £100 last year, brought in £60,000 this year, and the college saved £26,000 on books and materials. Charges are waived for low-income families.

At The Sixth Form College, Faraborough, which gained one of the best inspection repaid a £100 registration fee this term. Dr John Guy, the principal, who has raised concerns over colleges' financial position with the Department for Education and Employment, said: "College governors introduced the fee in order to protect the high quality of educatioo demonstrated by our inspection

The Further Education They warn that "hidden Funding Council, the quango which distributes funding to colleges, pledged yesterday to exafter heing questioned on the trend by The Independent.



All things nice: Spice Girl dolls will be on the shelves this Christmas, but not for long, limited stocks mean that stores will sell out within minutes Photograph: Philip Meech

What they really, really want for Christmas - and won't get

Spice Girl dolls will be on sale this Christmas. But only between 75,000 and 100,000 will make it to the shops ~ and then not until the end of the second week in December.

Kim Sengupta fears this will be a recipe for 'toy rage'.

Expectations from children would be sky high, and the pressure on their fathers and mothers intense, and some, say the toy shops, will see failing to get a Spice Girl doll as a

to see the last little Posh or Scary disappear in front of your eyes could well be enough to send normally mild-mannered people into "toy rage".

The problem has grown in tandem with the dramatic hype-driven rise in the popularity of designer toys. Ninja Turtles, Buzz Lightyears, Telembbies and Spice Girls will, say observers, be the sociological signposts in the study of this phenomeonn.

The British Association of Toy Retailers has held meetings with shop-owners on how to cope with aggressive customers, and they are tn print leaflets advising shops. The En-

Waiting in a queue for hours just toy chain in the country, is planning a courses on the matter next year. But one person's frustration is

> annther's commercial apportunity. The shartage of the prized toys had led tn a hlack market, "Toy touts" and their agents are queuing up to get the toys and then sell at a profit. The Spice Dolls are due to be retailed at just under £20 each, hut could be resold for four times that

The Dolls were originally due to be released next year. But as the highly managed profile of the band went up and up, the decisinn was the festive season. The most the her speciality is pouting.

75,000 tn 100,000 - a fraction of the expected demand.

One of the main reasons for the lack of supply, says the company, has been more than two months of negotiations with the band and its management about the product. As well as their various advisers, all the members of the group were keen tn check every detail.

"The girls know this will be a sort of public heritage of them, and they want to get this absolutely right, said nne executive. A prolotype, which had Posh Spice smiling, had taken in rush through production for to be scrapped because of course,

hape in have in the stores is between unt the limited supply of the dolls. made in China, equitably among the outlets. This means most small neighbourhood stares would get just a few, nr nnne at all. Even larger chains, like the Entertainer Group will get around 25 at their shaps -

which will gn in about 20 minutes. Gerry Masters, secretary of the BATR said: " The supply of spice Girls is certainly nothing like enough. You can easily add a zero tn that number and still sell the Int. We do fear there will be a toy rage, some customers seems to think there is some kind of conspiracy between the manufacturers and the shops tn keep publicity and prices

*Nanny hated family and called boy a brat, claims witness

Prosecution counsel brought out their key witness yesterday in the murder trial of British nanny Louise Woodward. But, writes David Usborne, Kathleen Sorabella floundered under defence cross examination.

Kathleen Sorabella, claiming to have met Louise Woodward last vear, said the teenage nanny iold her at that time that she hated the family she worked for. She claimed Ms Woodward said that the youngest of the children in her care, the infant she is accused of killing, was fussy" and a "brat".

Ms Sorabella, 30, recounted meeting Ms Woodward in a queue for the musical Rent in Boston last winter. She said the encounter took place a few weeks after Ms Woodward began working last November or Deborah and Sunil Eappen,

looking after their two children. Charged with first degree

murder, Ms Woodward is accused of fatally assaulting the Eappens' youngest child, Matthew, who was eight-anda-half months old at the time, nn 4 February by violently shaking him and slamming his head against a hard surface. The boy died on 9 Fehruary.

Ms Sorabella claimed Ms. Woodward said of the Eappen home: "That the parents were very demanding, that she didn't like them, that they told her what to do and they told her what time to be in at night."

Of the children, Ms Sorabella quoted the defendant as complaining that they were "spoiled, that they were fussy, that the baby was fussy all the time," and that the baby was a

Defence lawyers for Ms Woodward, however, entered into evidence documents aimed at discrediting Ms Sorabella as a witness. They produced papers for a car credit application signed by Ms Sorabella earlier this year demonstrating that she

had been untruthful about her earnings and her education record and that she had concealed a bankruptcy of several years ago.

"I hope all the rest of their witnesses are like that," an apparently relieved Gary Woodward, the father of Louise, remarked nutside the court after Ms Sorabella's testimony. Lnuise's mnther, Susan

Woodward, expects to be the first witness called to the stand when the defence begins its case, perhaps as early as today. The examination and cross-

examination of Ms Sorabella revealed a fascination shared by her and Ms Woodward with the Boston production of Rent. Ms Sorabella conceded she had seen the show 40 times, once even sleeping out overnight to get tickets. The court also heard that Ms Woodward similarly saw the show many times and had apparently struck up social contacts with some members of the cast.

While she was evidently uneasy on the stand, Ms Sorabella nane the less offered testimo-



her dead son yesterday

ny that in part echned the declarations of Matthew's mother, Deborah Eappen, both on Wednesday and yesterday. Once again yesterday Mrs Eappen cried when asked by prosecution counsel Gerald Leone about a telephone conversation she had with Ms Woodward shortly after Matthew's admission to hospital. In cross-examination yes-

terday, defence lawyer Andrew Good attempted to dull the impact of the highly dramatic testimnny nffered by Mrs Eappen on Wednesday. He focused his attention in particular on pages of hand written nntes taken by Mrs Eappen in two telephone discussinns with Ms Woodward nn 4 February, the first when she was first paged by her from the Eappen

home and the second at the

Mr Good attempted to imply that Matthew was already displaying symptoms of discomfort nn the morning nf 4 February before the murder is alleged to have taken place, for example uncharacteristic tiredness, diminished appetite, and some constipation. The defence is arguing that the child died of brain injuries suffered before the

afternoon in question. Mr Good highlighted the fact that Mrs Eappen had herself underlined in her notes that Ms Woodward had mentioned that on the day in question Matthew had slept from 9am to 12.30pm and that she had had

to wake him herself. Mrs Eappen had underlined this, Mr Good suggested: "Because that was usual as well, because it was

notable in you." Mrs Eappen whn, apart from the one show of tears, seemed strikingly confident, gave little ground in the defence lawyers. She did not respond. for instance, to repeated suggestions by Mr Good that she had deliberately omitted to mention the long nap and other "crankiness" that had been described by Ms Woodward when discussing the circumstances of her son's day with doctors and a social worker.

"I do not recall the entire conversation with the social worker, there was a lot of chaos at the time," she pleaded to the

Mrs Eappen, meanwhile, confirmed under questioning that she had been unaware of fracture sustained by Matthew on his right arm that was nnly detected after his admission to hospital and appeared to be more then two

INSIDE TODAY

PROMOTION



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IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT

THE MAGAZINE

Suzanne Moore gets a taste of Conran and goes back for more TRAVEL

Inside the most amazing new building in Europe YOUR MONEY

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"And that's when he fell in?..."



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The actress Liz Hurley arriving yesterday at the Pink Ribbon lunch at Harrods store, London, to launch a new breast cancer research study

Carpetbaggers must give windfalls to charity

Nationwide Building Society has gone on the offensive to stop carpetbaggers from forcing it to convert to a bank and pay out huge windfalls. Andrew Verity discovers that new customers will have to assign bonus payouts to charity.

Nationwide hopes the move will stop carpetbaggers who open accounts solely to benefit from windfalls. By insisting on the "charity clause". Nationwide will be able to drop high minimum balances on new accounts which were designed to put off opportunists.

Brian Davis, chief executive, said: "We can now concentrate on what building socleties do best - delivering better rates and services to the ordinary man and woman on the street. We are ending the speculative disruption which has in the past prevented us from giving our customers the level of service they deserve." ...

Until yesterday. Nationwide was forced to deter new customers by insisting on high minimum balances when customers opened new accounts. This helped stem a flood of ceive windfall payments.

applications by carpetbaggers - people speculating that the society would convert to a bank and give out windfall shares worth hundreds of pounds for each member.

In June, Nationwide went as far as closing off all new accounts after receiving 25,000 applications every day. Speculation was heightened when five Nationwide members who favoured conversion tried to win elections to the society's board. They were resoundingly defeated in July.

But carpetbaggers have continued to disrupt Nationwide's business. High minimum balances designed to put off carpetbaggers have also put off children and others whn want to save. Nationwide believes its charity clause will solve this problem. By insisting new members assign their windfall rights in charity, it has removed the incentive to open an account for the sake of a windfall.

In a bid to show that mutual building societies give better value than banks, the society is paying interest of 6.7 per cent on its instant access account. This is higher than its closest rivals Tesco and Sainsbury's with 6.5 per cent. The charity clause will only apply to new members. Members of Nationwide who apened their accounts before yesterday will keep their right to re-

Government put its weight behind hiring British videos

The Government yesterday launched a new drive to persuade customers in video shops to buy or hire British films in preference to Hollywood blockbusters.

Tom Clarke, the films minister, announced last night that the first National Video Week was being organised for next summer to raise the profile of the British film industry.

Senior figures in the video industry admitted yesterday that while British films are becoming increasingly popular overseas. video shops in Britain aften leave critically acclaimed British films out of sight while showcasing the action and adventure diet of Hollywood. British films were widely regarded as being "too much effort" for viewers while American movies were seen as a "safe bet". As a result, they said, well-received films such as Secrets and

Lies and Brassed Off, are losing vital revenue.

Mr Clarke said: "In 1996 the video industry was worth an amazing £1.3bn and it continues to grow at more than twice the rate of inflation. It is a significant source of revenue not just for films but for classic television drama, for sport, for music, and for children's programmes." He was speaking at an awards dinner for the British Viden Association, which honnured Desmond Llewellyn - whn played the part of Q in the Bond films - for his contribution to the British film industry.

The National Video Week will be focused on a gala festival in Battersea Park, London, designed to promnte British films.

Saudi nurses may get five years

Two British nurses accused of murdering an Australian colleague in Saudi Arahia may face only five years in jail, the Saudi am-

bassador in London said yesterday. The agreement by Yvonne Gilford's brother to waive the right to demand the death penalty in return for £750,000 had lifted the threat of execution hanging over Deborah Parry, Dr Ghazi Algosaibi said. And Frank Gilford's decision, annunced on Wednesday in Australia, meant the judgment against Lucille McLauchlan - whn was sentenced 500 lashes and eight years imprisonment for her part in the killing - could also be reviewed.

"According to the Saudi legal system, when the next of kin pardons, as he did, the court will apply the lesser sentence of jail, usually not exceeding five years." Dr Algosaibi said in a statement. Dr Algosaibi added: "The case is not yet over and there are further steps before the final verdict is announced. I do sincerety hope that the media will see fit in declare 'time out' and allow the judges and the lawyers to get on with their jobs."

Earlier Parry's family had said they were "absolutely delighted" that the victim's brother has waived his right to demand the death penalty for her.

Lords defeat on handguns

The Government suffered an embarrassing defeat in the Lords last night over its plans to introduce a total ban on handguns, Peers voted by 120 to 101, a majority of 19, to make the disabled exempt from the handgun ban, to be brought in under the

Government's Firearms (Amendment) Bill. The move to allow disabled people to continue shooting was introduced by former Labour sports minister Lord Howell and drew cross-party support.

Lord Howell told peers that he had campaigned for much of his life for the rights of disabled sportsmen and women and this took precedence over his party loyalty.



Dodi Fayed's remains re-buried in secret

The remains of Dodi Fayed, who died in the car crash in Paris that killed the Princess of Wales, have been secretly exhumed and re-huried on his father's country estate.

Mr Fayed's grave at Brookwood Cemetery near Waking, Surrey, was opened in the middle of Wednesday night with private security guards standing by. The coffin was removed by undertakers and taken 25 miles to his home at Oxted, Surrey, accompanied Mohammed Al Fayed.

There. Dodi Faved was buried in a new grave in the 500-acre grounds, close to his father's mansion, while the family awaits the results of an application to build an elaborate tomb.

The exhumation follows permission obtained by Mr Fayed from the Home Qffice for his son's remains to be moved. Michael Cole, the spokesman for Mr Fayed, confirmed yesterday that the transfer had taken place. "The coffin was moved during the evening ... completed in privacy, and the coffin reinterred in a tranquil and beautiful part of the estate." he said.

Dodi Faved had been buried in a plot at Brookwood specially selected by his father. A garden of remembrance was landscaped around the grave where Dodi had lain for the traditional 40 days of Muslim

mourning, which ended last Thursday.

A simple headstone bearing just the name Dodi was erected and bodyguards living in a camper van had kept a round-theclock watch. The grave had become a place of pilgrimage and Mr Cole said that Mr Faved had visited his son's grave most

An application by Mr Fayed to build an elaborate burial chamber that will become the family's personal "pyramid" on his estate is to be considered by the planning committee of Tandridge District Councilearly next month. The architect-designed walk-in vault covers an area 12-metres square sunk one-and-a-half metres below .: ground. It will have four entrances with huge oak doors reinforced with wrought iron topped by an opaque dome.

The leaded roof will surrounded with ornate wooden carvings and granite outer walls bearing inscriptions from the Koran. Inside it will have cylindrical pillars from floor to ceiling and will contain eight burial chambers. The walls are to be lined with mosaic and oak pergolas plant-. ed with shrubs and vines. Mr Cole said yesterday that the structure would not be visible from any public highway, and would nnt be open to the public.

- Jojo Moyes

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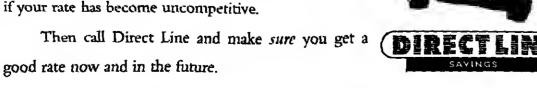
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5/CHILDREN AT RISK

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Concern: Parents in Brighton collecting signatures for a petition demanding the expulsion of child killer Robert Oliver

Photograph: Evening Argus

Killer hides in police cell from an angry public

For two days, child sex killer Robert Oliver has been living in a police cell to protect him from the public. But the door is unlocked and he is free to leave at any time without reporting to the authorities. Ian Burrell says 200 more sex offenders could similarly be released without supervision.

The mothers and children walking past the police statioo in Brighton yesterday were unaware of the close presence of a murderous child abuser.

But the police officers who sought to keep Robert Oliver's presence a secret from the public feared as much for the killer's safety as for the threat he posed to others.

Oliver, who was sentenced to 15 years for the murder of 14-year-old Jason Swift, was described by police yesterday as being "frighteoed and destitute".

Since being released from Wandsworth prison three weeks ago and registering on the national paedophile register, Oliver has been houoded out of Swindon, London, Dublin, Liverpool and Manchester.

He cut his hair and wore glasses to avoid recognition, but when he arrived in Brighton social services sent warning letters to the parents of 27,000 children in the town.

In an interview with the

Brighton Evening Argus, Oliver, 43, complained: "I am constaotly looking over my shoulder. I am frightened for my life. It feels like a lynch mob is out there waiting to get me."

Sussex police has moved him to a police statioo io another part of the force area, and is bearing the estimated £110-a-day cost of his stay. A spokesman said it was cheaper to keep Oliver in the station than to deploy resources keeping him under surveillance on the streets.

"This is only a short-term solution. He could leave at any time but there is no sign that he will. We are working with social services to fiod a loog term so-

Since being released from lution which would mean secure accommodation."

Yet because Oliver was sentenced prior to the Criminal Justice Act of 1992 he is not subject to any supervision order and is free to come and go as he pleases.

The National Association of Probation Officers yesterday estimated that there were some 200 sex offenders, all sentenced before 1992, who could also be released without such orders. Among them could be Oliver's former partner in crime Sidney Cooke.

Yesterday, a national campaign was launched to lobby Jack Straw, the home secretary, to block Cooke's release. The campaign – "Stop Paedophiles Exploiting and Abusing Kids" (Speak) – has been set up by Kate Lowes, a ourse from Sunderland.

Cooke, 68, was sentenced to 19 years – reduced to 16 oo appeal – for his part in a murderous paedophile ring io Hackney, east Loodon. The gang was responsible for the deaths of at least three boys, Jason Swift, Mark Tildersley and Barry Lewis.

Plan to ban paedophiles from public places

In the past fortnight, the police have registered 3,000 sex offenders on the new national paedophile register. Ian Burrell outlines proposals to ban child molesters from areas where they might be a risk to children.

The question of whether a child abuser deserves the same child rights as the rest of the general public is taxing the Government.

The Home Office said yesterday that ministers were looking at a package of new measures to protect children from abuse, including banning sex offenders from places where they might be likely to re-offend. A spokeswoman said that ministers were not yet sure that the proposal was workable.

But Heory McLeish, the Scottish home affairs minister, had few doubts as he revealed that his department wished to introduce the orders with a five-year jail senteoce for failure to comply. "We are keed to put this piece of the jigsaw in place," he said. "If there is a concern in a community, there could be a court order backed up by reports which will actually infringe on the liberties of this individual. It will detail areas they cannot go to.

This could be an indefinite order, depending on their behaviour ... this will put tremeodous pressure on the individual and more importantly it will reassure the community that the Government is listening, the invernment wants further

action."

Mr McLeish deoied that the proposal represented an unreasonable infringement of civil liberties. "We believe that some people's rights may have to be curbed if they are posing a threat." he said.

Scottish sheriffs could choose to har paedophiles from burger bars, amusement ar-

cades and other commercial premises as well as public areas.

Paul Cavadino, chairman of the Penal Affairs Consortium, said he was concerned that a five-year jail term might be imposed for "activity which does not amount to a sexual offence or an active attempt to commit one." He said he would prefer new legislation requiring lengthier post-release supervision for convicted paedophiles, which could include conditions restricting movement.

The need to address the growing public concern over the lack of checks on the activities of paedophiles is near the top of the Home Office ageoda. Ministers are also looking at indeterminate sentences for more senious offenders. The Crime and Disorder Bill is intended to provide for greater supervision of sex offenders in the community.

Uotil eveo the 1980s, only scant knowledge existed of the activities of paedophiles and the leogths they were prepared to go to procure victims. Even oow, the full exteot of sex offending against children in Britain is not clear.

The National Criminal Intelligence Service has some 25,000 individuals on its system, including some who have never been convicted but who are strongly suspected of abusing childreo. Past Home Office studies have suggested that there may be as many as 110,000 child abusers io England and Wales.

Some 3,000 people have come forward to be placed on the new national paedophile register, set up a fortnight ago for offenders currently on supervision or parole. Police said 83 per cent of the names on their files had been accounted for.

But Harry Fletcher, the assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said: "The fact that they have put themselves on the register does not tell us whether they are continuing to prey on children."

WE'LL NEVER BE BEATEN

Molester jailed

A convicted child molester who walked free from court last June was ordered to jail for 15 months by the Court of Appeal yesterday. Three judges headed by the Lord Chief Justice. Lord Bingham, upheld a complaint from Attorney tice. Lord Bingham, upheld a complaint from Attorney on oil company executive Peter Reed was "unduly lenient".

Reed. 44. of Sevenoaks, Kent, had admitted six charges of indecently assaulting three boys aged between seven and 11. The boys' parents were furious when Judge Anthony Balston, sitting at Maidstone Crown Court, suspended the sentence for two years, despite reports that Reed was at present a continuing risk to children.



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Mother makes appeal as police search for road-rage killer

A young couple appear to have been killed by a road-rage driver. loson Bennetto, Crime Correspondent, reports on developments in the police investigation and the grief felt by relatives.

The mother of the woman who was killed along with ber boyfriend when their car was apparently rammed into the path of another spoke yesterday about the "maniac" who caused the couple's deaths.

Detectives oo the case released details about the car used by the alleged road rage driver. The motorists appears to have been incensed because the vehicle in front of him was not going fast enough.

Police believe the driver deliberately slammed into the back of the couple's car three

Toby Exley, 22, and Karen Martin, 20, died after their black Ford Fiesta XR2 was finally rammed across the central reservation of the dual carriageway A316 at Hanworth, west London, and into the path of an oocoming Vauxhall

Miss Martin's mother, Kay, said: "There must be someone out there who knows who this maniac is.

"This man is likely to do this again and he oeeds to be stopped. We want to prevent another family feeling the utter devastation that we're feeling

She added: "We're still livng a nightmare, we're just hoping that we wake up from it. It's like an absolute void without Karen and Toby.

They were such lovely people, a beautiful couple. They were very much in love, it was a really serious relationship.

"There is oo way that Toby would have takeo any chances with Karen in the car as he was too much in love with her to put her in any danger."

only released details oo Wednesday evening after two witness came forward. The witnesses are believed to have beeo in vehicles overtaken by the speeding car.

"powerful" light-coloured saloon car with a registration number beginning K5.

Investigators believe the couple's Fiesta had just left a 40mph zone at about 8.50pm and was accelerating in the

riageway up to 70mph as it neared the M3 and overtook a motorcycle.

bumping into the Fiesta, finally forcing it through a wooden Mooday of last week but police rage vehicle is believed to be a outside lane of the dual car- fence on to the London-bound 6377 or 0800 555 111.

But the driver behind became impatient and began

love, it was a serious carriageway. The driver of theq Cavalier, who suffered a broken; arm and teeth io the crash, was-,

Karen Martin, left, and I

They were such lovely

people, a beautiful couple.

They were very much in

boyfriend Toby Exley:

still in a state of shock. Mr Exley, a chef, of Ted diogtoo, west London, and Miss Martin, who worked for an advertising agency and lived in , Twickenham, became inseparable after starting their relationship in February last year. They were buried next to each other earlier this week.

Mr Exley's brother Robin. 19, said: "The person who did. this should be stopped and they should stop and think about our family and Kareo's family. Anyone out there could be victims of this person."

If the driver was found, he. could face a charge of either. manslaughter or causing death by dangerous driving.

Robin also said he hoped his brother's personal organiser could be found as he may have written details about the roadrage car in it., but it is unlikely to have survived the crash.

Anyooe with information can cootact police on 0181 247

Straw gives blessing to police CS spray

The Home Office has just completed a review into the use of CS spray following the death of a man in police custody. Despite this, Jason

Bennetto, Crime

Correspondent, predicts that nothing will change.

The use of CS spray by police officers was given the backing of Jack Straw, Home Secretary, yesterday, who said the device posed no significant health

threat. His comments follow the call by a coroner earlier this month to re-examine the use of CS after an inquest jury returned a verdict of unlawful killing on a man who died shortly after

being sprayed. Ibrahima Sey, 29, a Gambian asylum-seeker, was sprayed in the face with CS despite being surrounded by police officers and having his hands chained behind his back.

He died as a result of asphycia due to the position in which he was restrained and because of a mental illness.

The case highlighted growing concerns that the solvent used in the spray was dangerous and the concentra-

Killer escapes jail

A woman who stabbed her partner to death wheo she thought

he was going to attack ber escaped a prison sentence yesterday. Mary Mullins, 37, endured four years of beatings until she

snapped when bodybuilder Ronnic Griffiths, 50, played music at full volume as she tried to get their baby to sleep. Fearing another assault, she stabbed him in the chest. A Cardiff Crown Court judge took pity oo ber after hearing how just a few bours before the killing she had begged police to take her to a refuge to escape from the violence of her common-law husband, known in the area as "Ronnie Muscles". Ms Mullins was given a two-year suspended seotence after pleading guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

severe burning and breathing difficulties.

sprays, but two forces have reabout the side-effects. Two Scottish police forces halted pilot studies of CS spray following the Sey inquest, but have since re-started them.

However Mr Straw, speaking at the Association of Chief Police Officers' autumn conference in Warwick, said: "1 have read all of the pathologist's reports and other medical and toxicological evidence submitted to the Ibrahima Sey inquest.

"The coroner's recommendations might lead one to think that the inquest had seen evidence which cast doubts on the acceptability of CS spray but I am satisfied this is not the

"There is nothing in the evidence to suggest that CS and the solvent MIBK, separately or in combination, present any significant threat to buman health."

He added: "Police officers deserve the best protection that we can provide."

Mr Sey was arrested in March last year and taken to Ilford police station, east London, where a struggle broke out

tion of the CS could cause in which the 18-stone Mr Sey was forced to the ground and handcuffed. The struggle con-Most of the forces in Britain tinued with up to eight officers are now using the band-held and a woman police officer sprayed him in the face from fused because of concerns about six feet. Mr Sey was then taken to a custody suite, laid face down on the floor and searched notil ooe officer realised he had stopped

> breathing. Dr Harold Price, the corooer, said: "The use of CS spray should be reviewed by all po-

lice forces. The guidelines for its use in the first place and the verbal warning given should be explored." Lee Jasper, vice chairman of

the National Assembly Against Racism, yesterday attacked Mr Straw's decisioo. "It's absolutely ludicrous. The British police are using spray five times greater in strength than the police in the United States. Even after a serious incident such as the death of Mr Sey it's still considered to be safe."



Straw: 'Spray is no threat'

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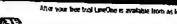
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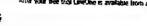
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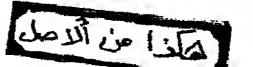




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Front page meets bottom line as the LA Times expands



Integrity: American journalism can be pedantic and long-winded, but writers and editors pride themselves on their professionalism and devotion to duty, typified by the movie The Front Poge, starring Jack Lemmon, which featur an obsessive editor tricking his star photographer into covering one last

The Los Angeles Times is one of America's national institutions. Now fears that the impact of

Forble Cash

commercialism will turn it upside down have prompted an exodus of top journalists. Tim Comwell finds out whether their fears for the future are justified

All is not well at the Los Angeles Times, one of America's largest newspapers. In recent weeks, first the publisher. and now the paper's editor have resigned in a hurry, citing no particular plans.

The reason, apparently, is Mark Willes, the former cereal company executive who has compared marketing newspapers to selling a box of Cheerios or bleach. It is not simply that Mr Willes, chief executive of the Los Angeles Times group and now its publisher, has announced his intention of boosting its sales from about one to 1.5 million. It is how he plans to meet this extraordinary tar-

managers on how to reach new readers, particularly women and the growing Hispanic community in Southern California. Frequently-held polls will find out what the readers want.

Mr Willes' plans for a special section for Latino readers provoked a minor revolt on the grounds it would ghettoise the news, and 100 journalists signed a letter calling it "offensive". The reorganisation apparently prompted the departure of long-time editor Shelby Coffey.

One the one hand, Mr Willes, 56, is optimistic on the future of the newspaper business, which is being squeezed by television and the Internet. "They are such remarkable value, they are convenient, they are user-friendly," he told The Independent.

Since he became chief executive of the Times Mirror Group, which includes seven US newspapers but has the Times as its flagship, share prices have tripled over three years. He has appointed a Pulitzer Prizewinning former foreign correspondent, Michael Parks, as his new editor.

But he rapidly earned the nickname "Cereal Killer" after

Cargain basement Semi terraced. Bungalow, or detached.)



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New Yorkers wake up to a splash of colour

The New York Times' crossed a rubicon yesterday, using colour on its front page for the first time in its history.

When it introduced colour on the fronts of inside sections on 15 September, the newspaper said that its front page would remain grey a bit longer, until the production staff got used to the process and editors had a really strong picture to

Yesterday's front page had two colour photographs: baseball star Tony Fernandez of the Cleveland Indians, and Attorney General Janet

Other New York papers have joined the international trend of adding colour. The Daily News started using colour photos on the first and last two pages of its weekday editions in September, and the New York Post introduced a colour pullout TV schedule.

get, at a time when US newspaper circulation is declining. that has prompted a minor cri-

sis of confidence. In recent days, Los Angeles Times journalists have appeared in the pages of rival newspapers, on and off the record, to lament that Mr Willes is crossing one of the most hallowed lines in the profession - between the business and editorial departments.

They have raised the fear that by breaking this "Chinese wall", their journalistic integrity will be compromised, with reporters kowtowing to commercial concerns.

Founded in the late 19th century, the Los Angeles Times was from the start a great promoter of its home city as the "most beautiful inhabited by the human family". The paper still has a provincial touch, with many local editions; but it has evolved, just as California has. It is the largest metropolitan daily behind the New York Times and has an editorial staff of about 1,000, with no serious rival on the West Coast.

In the last eight years, it has Won four Pulitare Prizes, in part by throwing its resources at earthquake and rine Circulapon, however, has supper in the last five years. Mr Willes now wants editors of each section of the paper to join what have been dubbed "visiting meetings" with advertising and business

rounds of cuts and lay-offs. And the hard-nosed business interests of a Utah native appear to have clashed with the culture of American journalism, which prides itself on professionalism and integrity, sometimes at the price of long-windedness.

"He's just breaking rules right and left and Wall Street seems to be extremely happy and the journalism community ranges from uncomfortable to horrified," said one Times staffer. "One analogy that people have been using is that he wants to move very fast but we don't know where."

In his interview, Mr Willes sounded mildly dismayed by the furore. He had been prepared for had press, but not the "amount and releatlessness" of the coverage, he said. He was offended also by the implication that only long-serving journalists possessed moral backbone. He had been a newspaper junkie all his life, he said, though he was only hired by Times-Mirror after a headhunter had approached him.

"It's like selling bleach in the sense that if you can help convince the consumer that you have something exceptionally useful and valuable, you can sell more," he said. "On the other hand, newspaper isn't at all like bleach, and that's one of the things that attracted me to this. industry."

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Devon hit by earth tremor

An earthquake measuring 2.8 on the Richter scale shook the West Country yesterday. Seismologists confirmed it was the largest quake to hit Devon for more than 12 years.

The epicentre was at Totnes and tremors were felt more than 15 miles away in Plymouth, said seismologists at the British Geological Survey in Edinburgh.

John Lovell, a seismologist at the BGS, said around 30 earthquakes measuriog between 2 and 3 on the Richter scale were recorded in the UK every year. "This quake is not unusual. We have between 25 and 30 quakes of this size recorded in the UK every year and we have between 200 and 300 quakes of various sizes recorded. With this quake, people have been describing thunder claps and explosions, houses shaking, and objects falling, which is common,"

The largest earthquake to hit the UK in recent vears rocked North Wales in 1984 and measured 5.4 on the Richter scale.

Fall in demand for university places

Applications for university are running nearly 11 per cent behand the total for the same time last year, according to the latest official figures.

The news raised speculation that the Government's decision to charge tuition fees of £1,000 a year from next autumn may be putting off some potential applicants.

Part of the explanation for the fall may be the extra 23,000 people who entered university this term, some of whom might have waited until next year if tuition fees had not been introduced.

For three of the last four years, applications at this stage have been well ahead of this year's figure of 39,369, released by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). Last year they were 44,200.

The first deadline for applications - for those applying to Oxbridge - was yesterday but the total also includes people applying for medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine and some students who apply early because they want to study popular subjects at popular universities. Around 22,000

people each year try for

Final applications do not have to be in until 15 December but Brian Roper, vicechancellor of the University of North London, said, said that the figures suggested that his forecast that there would be between 40,000 and 50,000 fewer applications because of fees might prove an underestimate.

"Bear in mind that those who have applied so far are the articulate, well-off middle-class. If there is a deterrent effect there is a pretty strong indication that it will work its way through." Oxford and Cambridge said

figures for several days but that there was no indication that their applications had fallen this Professor Gillian Salter, vice-chancellor of Bourne-

that they would not have final

"In view of all the uncertainties, any potential student would wait until the last minute," she said.

ADVANCED WASH SYSTEM

month University, said it was

Judith Judd **Education Editor**



A 1931 photograph of the Queen, then Princess Elizabeth of York, aged 5, by Marcus Adams: part of 'Presenting an Image' a show opening tomorrow at the Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace

Have-nots getting a bigger slice of the cake

The gap between rich and poor continues to grow, but not as quickly. Barrie Clement, Labour Editor, examines the latest figures.

A third of households in Britain have no one in employment, but the growth in the gap between rich and poor has begun to slow, according to official data released yes-

The gulf between the "haves" and the "have nots" accelerated rapidly in the Thatcherite Eighties, but the growth has started to wane, the survey of Households Below Average Income found.

The proportion of "workless" houses however bas rocketed from 10 per cent in 1979, when Margaret Thatcher became Prime Minister, to 33 per cent now. The proportion of families containing a full-time employee has declined since 1979 from nearly two-thirds to just under a half.

The survey, published by the Govern-ment Statistical Service, showed that more than a third of children now live in families without a full-time worker. In 1979, around 20 per cent of children lived in unemployed families, which moved up to 25 per cent by 1994-5.

Real incomes rose over the period since 1979 by 37 per cent, but those at the lower cod had seen much slower growth.

All was not lost for those who found themselves at the bottom of the heap, it

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VOUCHER £249.99 was found. People in the lowest10 per pa of the earnings scale did not always. there. Of those in the bottom group in 14 64 per cent had incomes estimated to in a higher bracket four years later. The lifestyles of the overwhelming majority pensioners and single parent families found however to remain static. Gener ly, women and single-parent families we more likely than other groups in society be found in the bottom 20 per cent Britain's income distribution.

Harriet Harman, Secretary of State f Social Security, said the survey justified to Government's focus on single parents as the poorest pensioners. She pointed of that 55 per cent of the adults in the bo tom fifth were women.

Ms Harman added: "The Gover ment's new Social Exclusion Unit has be set up to tackle the problems of tho groups that have been left behind. We w tackle poverty by ensuring that all those w want to work can, and all those who ca not, get what they are entitled to."

A spokeswoman for the Department Social Security said that "history matter when it came to looking at people's future People with a history of low income a more likely to experience low incomes future." Unsurprisingly, adults with no fo mal qualifications were more likely to r main in the poorest section of society, white those educated to degree level were like ly to move swiftly out of the bottom



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Surgeons 'were no good at heart operation' says doctor;

A cardiac specialist explained yesterday how he desperately tried to prevent a heart operation in which a haby boy died - because he believed that surgeons at his hospital were "no good at it".

Professor Gianni Angelini told a disciplinary hearing of the General Medical Council that he had spent more than a year before the 1995 operation trying to raise the alarm over an "unacceptable" death rate among habies undergoing "switch" heart surgery to correct a backto-front heart at the Bristol

Royal Infirmary. Heart surgeons James Wisheart and Janardan Dhasmana are appearing before the GMC's professional conduct committee on allegations that they continued to perform operations at Bristol although they knew that at least twice as many babies died in their care

than at other hospitals. It is alleged that they went

ahead with operations which left to the deaths of 29 children be tween 1988 and 1995, and left four others brain dead.

Dr John Roylance, former chief executive of the United Bristol Healthcare Trust, is an cused of allowing the two suigeons to continue operating. three men deny charges of sa rious professional misconduct.

Professor Angelini told the hearing that be was first alerted to problems with the switch operations in autumn 1993. when he received data showing an alarmingly high death rate. "My view was that we were no good at these operations, end of story," he said.

Professor Angelini said he begged Dr Roylance and Mr Wisheart not lo allow an operation on 18-month-old Joshua Loveday to go ahead. He was told it had been decided the operation should go ahead. Joshua died on the operating table later that day.

Trimble letter bomb defused

A letter bomh sent to Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble yesterday was defused by the army.

The package arrived in the morning post at his constituency office in Lurgan, Co Armagh, said the RUC. The device was "crude but capable of exploding", said a spokesman. A number of shops and businesses close to the Queen Street

constituency office were evacuated while army bomb disposal ex-

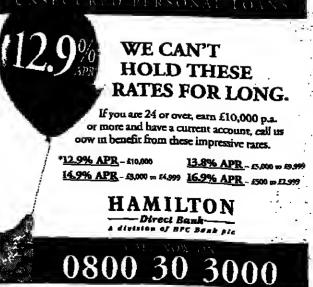
perts made the device safe. It was the latest in a series of similar devices sent to leading Ulster politicians. Last week another was defused after being sent to another Ulster Unionist MP, Jeffrey Donaldson, at his office at the Lis-

burn Council headquarters in Hillsborough, Co Down. Similar devices have been made safe after being delivered to

UK Unionist leader Robert McCartney, MP, at both his Bangor, constituency office and his office in Belfast. No organisation has claimed responsibility for any of the attacks.

Award for 'Independent' writer

Dorothy Walker, a contributor to The Independent, has been named the 1997 BT Newspaper Technology Journalist of the Year. Ms Walker received her £1,000 award for an article written for The Independent's Network+ supplement about a specialist school that uses the Internet to help children with cerebral palsy improve their communications skills.

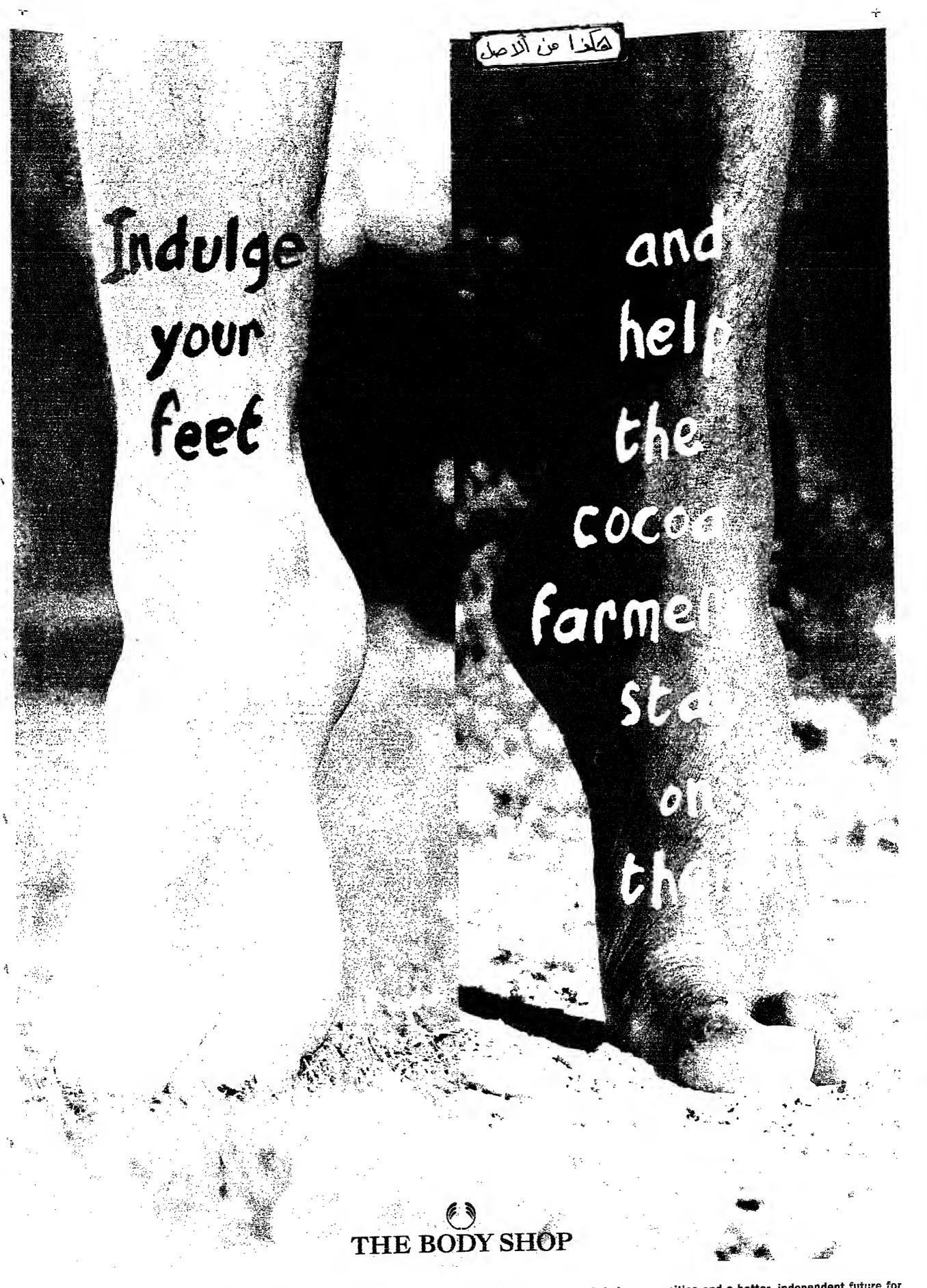


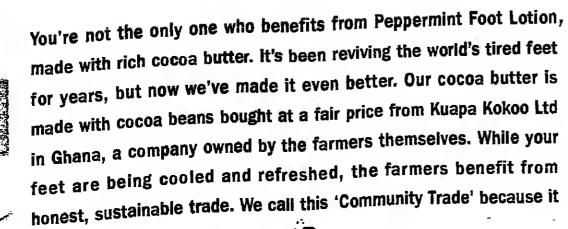
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Fears of Labour purge as spin doctors quit Whitehall

John Major's former press secretary, Ionathan Haslam, vesterday became the seventh senior Whitehall press officer to resign or move post. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, reports on why a third of Government

information chiefs are

packing their bags.

Jonathan Haslam was doing his "spin-doctoring" yesterday, handing out press releases to journalists at Westminster announcing that he was resigning as bead of information at the Department of Education and Employment.

Mr Haslam, 45, who survived the flak directed at Downing Street for five years under John Major, is the seventh senior Government information officer to leave since the 1 May general election.

The departure of a third of

Whitehall cull is being carried out by Mr Haslam's successor at No 10, Alastair Campbell, Tony Blair's chief press secretary, and Peter Mandelson, the minister without portfolio.

Mr Haslam, who is to become director of corporate affairs at the London Metal Exchange, denied be was being pushed. "I have had a fantastic job opportunity put before me and an offer which allows me to develop my career. I have been very lucky in that I have worked in eight government departments, travelled the world and I did the best job in

"I had an extremely good job in DFEE and extremely warm relationship with David Blunkett [Secretary of State]." Mr Haslam said he remained loyal to Mr Major but had never heen asked about his politics, or been asked to carry out a political role within the Government since Labour came to power.

His departure follows six other information chiefs who are leaving, seeking early retirement or are being redeployed. They are: Jill Rutter (Treasury); Andy Wood

heightened suspicions that a (Northern Ireland), Gill ran while in Opposition. Samuel (Defence), Steve Reardon (Social Security), Liz Drummond (Scotland) and Jean Caines (Trade and Industry). The moves have sparked reports of personality clashes with ministers, and rows over the handling of "had

> announcements. It coincided yesterday with a union meeting of 47 middleranking Whitehall press officers who aired grievances about low morale and fears about the "politicisation" of the civil

Bill Brett, general secretary of the Institute of Professionals, Managers and Specialists will next week tell Mr Campbell and senior officials the civil servants want to put a stop to "being rubhished" and "slagged off" by ministers' special advisers, who have more leeway to act as "spin doctors". He said one special adviser was reported to bave described a press officer as "easy meat".

The concern has arisen over a drive by Mr Campbell and Mr Mandelson to overhaul and modernise the Government information machine to match the slick operation Lahour

The civil servants privately admitted that they were in need of being updated. Mr Brett said: The view of the Royce service - just maybe a clapped out Rolls-Royce. That is because it has been considerably downsized in the past decade

But it has also raised anxiety that they are in danger of crossing the grey line between providing factual information as civil servants and defending the Government as party "spin doctors*

Mr Mandelson last week wrote to Mr Brett giving an assurance that reports of civil service "politicisation" were. Mr Brett said after the

meeting that the civil servants were ready to "raise their game", as Mr Campbell had described it, by becoming more pro-active but they would be seeking more equipment, such as pagers and bome fax machines, and more investment to increase recruitment. Some press officers are also ready to serve in policy divisions to improve their presentational



Before the fall: John Major with Jonathan Haslam while he was the press secretary at Downing Street

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election spending A curb on parties' election spending is

Blair moves to curb

expected to come from an inquiry into political funding, it was confirmed yesterday. Anthony Bevins, Political Editor, looks at a significant initiative.

A han on American funding for Sinn Fein: the identification of £5,000-plus donors to parties; less reliance of Labour on the trade unions: and the elimination of misleading party labels, such as Literal Democrat, could all flow from concerned government action to clean up the "sleaze" that surrounds party funding.

The Independent reported exclusively last month that the Government bad decided to curb the millions the parties currently spend - without restriction - during national elections.

Announcing yesterday that Sir Patrick Neill QC would take over from Lord Nolan as chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, and that the committee would now examine the funding of parties, Tony Blair said that the new chairman could flook at all the aspects of the way that political parties are funded, the way their campaigns are run".

He added: "What is tremendously important is not just to clean up the standards in Parliament, to make sure there's proper openness and bonesty in the way that Members of Parliament conduct their business, but also that political campaigns and

THE INDEPENDENT Labour bans election spending sprees

How The Independent broke the news of Labour's plans last month

ed have the same openness and transparency." Asked specifically about a

cap on election funding, a senior minister said: "That issue is being looked at." Sir Patrick, 71, a former Warden of All Souls College,

Oxford, is to be made a life peer, said: "One possible aspect we're looking at is overall expenditure by the parties. "There's a limit on what candidates can spend, but no

limit on what the parties can

spend at an election time, and that strike most observers as somewhat odd." Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, also said yesterday that he is to introduce a Bill. as promised in the May manifesto, to require all parties to declare the source of all do-

nations above £5,000, along with a ban on all foreign donations to political parties. The early legislation will also provide for the registration of political parties, required for the introduction of proportional representation in

the way that parties are fund- European elections in June 1999. That proposal will block: candidates standing under misleading or deliherately confusing labels, such as New Labour or Literal Democrat.

Although the reference to Sir Patrick's committee does not preclude state funding for: parties, it is thought that Mr: Blair is against it, over and above the existing system of funding for party work in Parliament.

However, if a cap is to be imposed on election campaign spending, that might allow Lahour to fund its: political work from individual: subscriptions and donations. without the need to rely so heavily on its union "paymasters"

In the run-up to the last election, it is believed the Tories spent £20m, compared? with Labour's £13m and the Liberal Democrats' £3m. Ministers believe that a reasonable limit of between £5m and £10m would be more sensible and much more democratic.

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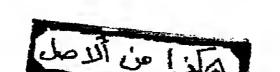
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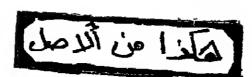


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12/FLASHPOINTS



Greece and the Greek Cypriots held a three-day joint exercise on Cyprus and Around 15,000 Turkish troops pushed into accused Turkey of violating their airspace. Greece said yesterday Turkish warplanes had buzzed a military transport plane carrying its Detence Minister. Turkey plane military exercises next month on Cyprus and in the Aegean and northern Iraq last month to fight Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) rebels, who use bases in the area to strike into Turkey. The incursion angised izaq and iran. Turkish troops have begun pulling out, but air atlacks continue. TURKEY Fighting between the two traci Kurdish factions broke out last weekend in TERUS spite of a Western-brokered ceaselire that had SYRIA kept the peace for a year. Iran taunched air attacks on tranian opposition bases inside Iraq on JRAQ netween Iranian-backed Hezbolish querities, israel troops and their South Lebanon Army militie alies. On Tuesday stael warplanes attacked a Managary ber 29, vic Continuing tensions in southern Lebanon no-fly zone patrolled by the United States and its adjes. Baghdad 🔳 trace sent up two fighters in pursuit, again violating the zone. Israeli warplanes attacked a Hizbolizh radio station near the Syrian border. Washington sent a seven-ship battle group led by the Nimitz to the Gulf two weeks ahead of schedule. They IRAN arrived tast Sunday, bringing the total number of US ships in the Gulli to 15. The US also sent two B-1 KUWATT bombers to Bahrain, but returns them to the US over the weekend. On Saturday, Iran began war games in the Gulf, covering ARABIA 15,000 square infes and irredving more than 100 vessels. Iran also claims to have tested a locally built prioriess stealth aircraft fran warns the US and Royal Navies after they moved into an area of the naval war games. It accuses U.S. forces spying on the war games in the Gulf. On Wednesday it said it had warned of the British destroyer Motingham effect it came "within shooting range" of trantam watships.

The USS Nimitz arrived in the Gulf 24 hours after Iran began its annual manoeuvres. It is fresh defiance by Saddam Hussein, rather than Iran's actions, which worries the Allies Photograph: Rex Features

Saddam raises the temperature in the Gulf

A combination of fresh clashes in Kurdish northern Iraq, large-scale Iranian naval exercises and the hasty arrival of the US aircraft carrier Nimitz has sharply increased tensions in the Gulf. However, the root cause of the latest trouble, as Rupert Comwell explains, is more bad behaviour by Saddam Hussein.

A mood of confrontation in the Gulf has been steadily increasing since Sunday, when the USS Nimitz with 80 warplanes aboard, arrived just 24 hours after Iran had begun its annual manocuvres, code-named Pirouzi (Victory).

In response, Tehran declared it would "react decisively" to any aggressive action by the US fleet, and yesterday denounced

both Britain and America for spying on its break the strategic strait-jacket of the two war games, during which it claims to have tested successfully a new unpiloted stealth aircraft. Singled out for special mention was the British destroyer Nottingham, accused of sailing "within shooting distance" of Iranian warships, before heeding a warning to move away at once.

In London and Washington, officials were playing down the affair. The Ministry of Defence last night did confirm the Nottingham had been "in the vicinity" of Iranian vessels on Tuesday, but outside the 12-mile territorial limit. "We believe no incident took place," a spokesman said, and Pentagon officials were similarly dismissive.

In fact, the current concern of the Allies is not so much the ultimate nightmare of a move by Tehran to close the Straits of Hormuz and thus choke off the West's vital oil pipeline, as fresh defiance from Saddam Hussein. Once again, the Iraqi dictator is out to exploit any pretexts to

no-fly-zones that effectively confine his airforce to the middle third of his country.

On 29 September came the latest opportunity: cross-border attacks by Iranian government planes against bases of the Iranian Mujahedin opposition, which is actively supported by Baghdad. In response to this violation of the southern no-fly-zone, Saddam committed one of his own by scrambling Iraqi fighters to chase off the

But, British officials noted last night, this was just one of a string of recent infringements - others apparently some 400 miles to the north, where Kurdish factions are battling for control of Kurdish regions of Iraq. Though Turkey yesterday denied any involvement, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan accused Ankara of twice bombing PUK-controlled territory, in support of the rival Kurdistan Democratic Party-

The hostilities signalled the end of a UN-

brokered ocasefire that had held for the previous 12 months, designed in part to prevent Saddam exploiting differences between the factions to reassert his influence in the Kurdish segment of his country.

Almost certainly the despatch of the Nonitz - which has not been accused by Iran of snooping on its exercises - is designed to send a clear message to Saddam to toe the line. "If these violations continue, he should be aware the coalinon will strike back," a Western diplomat said last night.

No less significantly, the Iraqi provocations come at a well tried moment, As he has done in the past, Saddam may be trying to deflect attention from the latest report of the UN special commission that theoredeally enforces the destruction by Iraq of its chemical and biological weapons, and equipment that could be used to build nuclear bombs. Once again, Baghdad is not complying, meaning that UN sanctions against Iraq will continue.

If be stays true to form, Saddam will back down rather than invite an allied reprisal. But in a region that is always unpredictable, the Iranian dimension adds a

Despite some signs that Washington is seeking to improve relations with the new - and conceivably more conciliatory - government in Tehran, Iran is still deemed a rogue state" and US policy remains the "dual containment" of both Iraq and Iran. Nor does fierce criticism of the recent Franco-Russian gas deal with Iran suggest any softening of the Clinton administration's

The proximity of US warships and Iranjan planes in the Gulf can prove a volatile and tragic combination, as on July 1988 when the US cruiser Vincennes mistakenly shot down an Iranian civilian jet, killing all 290 people aboard. Five months later, possibly in reprisal, came the bombing of PanAm flight 103 over Lockerbie.

Greece claims Turkey buzzed minister's jet

Greece and Turkey were back in angry confrontation last night after the Greek Defence Minister claimed that in the second such incident this week, his plane was huzzed yesterday by Turkish jets over the Aegean, this time as he was returning from joint military exercises in Cyprus.

According to the Athens Defence Ministry, the C-130 transport plane carrying Akis Tsochatzopoulos was harassed by four Turkish F-16s in Greek airspace before being seen off by eight Greek fighters. Ankara denied any violation, but the minister called Turkey "an international troublemaker," that was reverting to the ways of the Cold War.

Whichever version is correct, the flare-up most emphatically signifies the end of a summer thaw in relations between the eternally feuding Nato partners: It also douses a shortlived burst of optimism that a solution might be found to the 23-year-old Cyprus crisis, that twice in the past decade has helped bring Greece and Turkey close to war.

Once again, both sides are conducting joint military exercises with their client portions of Cyprus, and yesterday Turkey said it would no longer honour a US proposal for a ban on military flights over the island, after this week's joint Greek/Greek Cypriot manoeuvres attended by Mr Tsochatzopoulos.

On top of its intractable dispute with Greece over territorial waters in the Aegean. Turkey is bitter at the decision of the European Union to include the Greek-populated Republic of Cyprus in the six countries selected for the next round of enlargement talks, starting in January 1998 - while deferring negotiations over its own entry into the EU.

A scheduled Balkan summit in Crete in November offers an opportunity to repair some of the damage. But no plans have been made for the two prime ministers to hold a separate meeting. Rubert Comwell

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المان الرصل Fury erupts over lost Montserrat warning



No safe haven: Emmanuel Ryan, 2, looking into the darkened skies above Otvaston from his mother's arms as the Soufrière Hills volcano erupts on Montserrat

Scientists warned the British government 10 years ago that Montserrat's volcano was still active and would erupt again. Their predictions were ignored. The island's people were never told that they were living in a potential disaster zone, Fron Abrams writes, and the burial of the report may have cost UK taxpayers tens of millions of pounds.

.

The opening sentence of the re- were presented with an opporport handed to the governor of Montserrat and to the island's Instead, they spent almost £20m government in 1987 was blunt, rebuilding the island's main

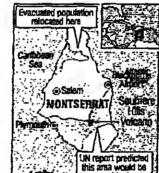
"Soufrière Hills volcano is active and will erupt again. It is a potential threat to many of the people that live in southern Montserrat," it read.

The report, while stressing that the eruption could be a long lime coming, suggested that important public utilities should be moved out of the capital, Ptymouth, which would be extremely vulnerable when it did.

Two years later, the island Hugo. The governments of . Britain and of Montserrat, which is a British dependency,

tunity to address the problem. hospital, government headquarters, schools and headquarters where they had been

This week, Baroness Symons promised to try to find out what happened to the United Nations-sponsored report by Professor Geoffrey Wadge of the University of Reading, and Michael Isaacs of the Seismic Research Unit in Trinidad. A Foreign Office spokesman sugwas devastated by Hurricane gested yesterday that the report would routinely have been passed on to officials in London, although he added that this



would have been the governor's decision. Christopher Turner, the then governor of Montserrat, could not be contacted for

Montserrat Action Committee, MAC '89, Janice Panton, said yesterday that it should have been publicised.

"I grew up on the island with the view that the volcano was dormant. It had been dormant with an active volcano you should know.

"It should have been given to the people who were building houses there. Then if it had been dismissed at least you could say it was dismissed with knowledge," she said.

Jenny Tonge, the Liberal Democrat MP for Richmond Park, read about the report in a Christian Aid leaflet produced last year. When she asked the House of Commons it did not have one.

"What the hell had been going on that allowed tens of millions of pounds to be spent in an area that was known to be unsafe. The last government need to be called to give evidence to find out why that money was wasted," she said.

Britain gave £3m for essential repairs immediately after Hurricane Hugo and followed it up in 1991 with a further £16.8m.

The money was used to rebuild and expand the Glendon Hospital near Plymouth, to repair schools and public buildings, and to provide a safe water supply. Plymouth is now uninhabitable, along with the rebuilt hospital which had never fully opened.

Since 1995 Britain has committed itself to spending £45.8m

on emergency aid to the island. David Taylor, who was governor between 1990 and 1993, oversaw much of the post-

Nunc Dimittis

In his sleep the cows drift through the old streets

A voice is explaining itself to someone who does not need an explanation or who has died without it.

He has justified every failure

He has chosen eight discs. The seabirds cry through the old streets. "Would

you be able to look after

yourself, catch fish or build a boat?" Someone is

thanking him over and over again. Over and over.

This poem completes our selection from the work of Edwin Brock, who died last month. His Five Ways to Kill a Man: new

and selected poetry (£7.95) is published by Enitharmon Press

at 36 St George's Avenue, London N7 0HD.

filling the frost with their breathing.

by believing that anything here can be used to make a shelter.

by Edwin Brock

DAILY POEM

The co-ordinator of the hurricane rebuilding. He said he had never heard of the report until he read Christian Aid's leaflet in 1996, "I haven't the slightest idea what became of it. It's possible that it was in the governor's office and was blown away during the hurricane. A lot for 400 years. If you are living of the governor's files disappeared into the sea," he said.

Mr Taylor was unsure whether things would have been different if the report had been published. "It's very difficult to judge - it is both hypothetical and with hindsight," he said.

Baroness Chalker, a Foreign Office minister, was deputy foreign secretary from 1987 until 1989 and minister for overseas aid from 1989 until May this year. Although she was not responsible for Montserrat in 1987, she dealt with the aftermath of the burricane and the rebuilding programme. She said she had never been shown the Wadge and Isaacs report. If she had, it would have been acted on. "The governor should have sent it to the Foreign Office and it should have been brought to the attention of whoever was the Caribbean minister in those days," she said.

We were absolutely determined to respond to the scientific evidence. There was no scientific evidence which wasn't fully accepted. I have no knowledge of this report."

Professor Wadge was not anxious to apportion hlame for the effective disappearance of his report. "The main reaction at the time was polite: 'Yes, this is very interesting but we notice there hasn't been an eruption for bundreds of years."

"It's an obvious way of thinking and it's unfortunate that it has caught them out in this way," he said,

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Blair spins royal tour into success

The accident-prone royal tour of India took a further turn for the worse yesterday after Tony Blair urged colleagues to tell the "success stories of the visit". Anthony Bevins, Political Editor, reports on a storm in an Indian

The Prime Minister went out of his way to praise Robin Cook. the Foreign Secretary, during yesterday's Cabinet, for doing an excellent job during his visit, with the Queen, to the Indian subcontinent.

The Prime Minister said that what was required now was a major effort of communication to explain more widely the thus-far unreported success

stories of the visit," a spokesman said.

Mr Cook promptly gave a series of interviews in which he said he had given no public statements on the delicate issue of Kashmir, and the cancellation of a toast due to have been given by the Queen in Madras yesterday was a "storm in a toast-cup".

Bot the media minefield was then abundantly illustrated with a report that Sir Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private secretary, had said in Madras: "The Queen is here on the advice of ministers in Britain. She does not go out on a limb."

The inference was promptly drawn that Sir Robert was assing the buck - and the blame - on to the Foreign Office, and that if the Queen was ic ties are very strong, as indeed out on a limb, that was the fault of Mr Cook and his officials.

baffled by that as it was by the whole affair, particularly as Mr Cook and Sir Robert had spoken an hour earlier oo the

A senior Foreign Office

source said the warmth of the welcome for the Queen had been immense; trade orders had reflected the goodwill engendered by the visit, and the relationship between the two governments had never been stronger. Mr Cook said Inder Kumar Gujral, India's Prime Minister, had told the Queen political and economic relations have never been in hetter shape. "In a statement which he issued after a meeting with myself," Mr Cook added, "he described it as a friendly and a viable meeting. Our diplomat-

are our trade ties." Prince Philip, meanwhile, in The Foreign Office was as a speech given aboard the Roy-

al Navy frigate HMS Westminster docked in Bombay, asked businessmen of the two countries to do something that critics said were missing between the diplomats. "Though technology has transformed the world beyood recognition, there is still no substitute for personal interaction," he said. "It is sometimes surprising how

many doors can be opened." A senior Foreign Office source said the media had got the entire affair "out of focus" and had allowed "a molehill to obscure the mountain" of success. The source added that there was more trade and investmeot between the two countries than at any time in history, including the time of the Empire.

Mr Gujral will have an opportunity to put his own version when he visits Britain next week for a Commonwealth

Heads of Government meeting. As for the source of the perceived diplomatic difficulties, Sir David Gore-Booth, British High Commissioner in India, said: The Indian press is almost as licentious as our own...

"I find some of the reaction more invented than real. The Indian press, like the British press, is always on the lookoot for gaffes and bloopers." Sir David also denied a report in an Indian newspaper that Mr Cook had a blazing row with Mr

A Palace official told reporters in Madras that any problems on the visit had been "flea hites" and "nit-picking".

However, Michael Howard, the shadow Foreign Secretary. said last night. "Never has a Foreign Secretary caused so much offence to so many people in such a short space of



The Duke of Edinburgh visiting Western Naval Command in Bombay. Later he Photograph: Savita Kirloskar/Reuters addressed a business seminar on HMS Westminster

US army charges top soldier with sexual harassment

The former top enlisted man in the US army, Sergeant Major Gene McKinney, has been formally indicted on 20 charges of sexual barassment and is to appear at court martial in Virginia in January. Sgt Major McKinney, who is black, has detiled all the accusations against him and his supporters have implied a racial motive in the allegations, noting that all his female accusers are white. The decision to bring charges followed a hearing in which six women, all former colleagues of Sgt Major McKinney and his junior in rank, claimed he had used his position to make sexual advances. Sgt Major McKinney, and his wife of 25 years, Wilhelmina, appeared together on a television talk-show to dismiss the allegations as without foundation.

Mary Dejevsky, Washington

Tajik leader's guards killed

Gunmen attacked the headquarters of Tajikistan's presideotial guards in Dushanbe yesterday, killing 14 servicemen. More than 70 gunmen opened fire oo the compound with automatic weapons and grenade launchers. The gunmeo scized two guard posts, and theo stormed a barracks, shooting five sleeping officers. More than 20 guards were injured in the ensuing battle, which raged for an hour-and-a-half. President Emomali Rakhmonov's hard-line government signed a peace deal in June with mainly fundame otalist Muslim oppositioo groups to end a civil war that broke out shortly after independence in 1991.

Swiss banks to reveal more

Swiss banks said yesterday they would publish a second list of dormant accounts containing 18 million Swiss francs (£8.8m), bringing the total found so far to about 78 million francs. Georg Krayer, chairman of the Swiss Bankers Associatioo, said the money discovered in dormant accounts opened before the end of the Secood World War was still significantly below the amounts Jewish groups allege Swiss banks are hiding. In additioo to scouring their vaults Credit Suisse Group, Swiss Bank Corp (SBC) and Union Bank of Switzerland UBS have coorributed 100 million Swiss francs to set up a fund for Holocaust victims.

Russia sees sharp rise in TB

About 2.2 million people are ill with tuberculosis in Russia and the disease is steadily spreading, a health official said yesterday. Last year alone, 24,700 people died of tuberculosis and 98,000 people were recorded as having contracted the disease. The main source of infectioo in Russia is its overcrowded, disease-ridden prisons, where the infection rate has skyrocketed. Overall, the number of TB cases has risen nearly 4 per cent in the past year.

Papon quizzed on Algerians' deaths

The trial of the Vichy official Maurice Papon for his role in the persecution of French Jews has taken an unexpected turn. As John Lichfield reports from Paris, Mr Papon has also been asked to explain the deaths of up to 300 Algerians in the city in 1961, when he was the police chief.

According to the official record, only two people died when a peaceful Algerian march was brutally suppressed by Paris po-lice oo 17 October 1961. But historians and Algeriao organisations say at least 200 people, maybe as maoy as 300, were drowned, shot or clubbed to death by police.

On the witness stand, Maurice Papon, admitted that "15 to 20" Algerian bodies were taken from the River Seine; be is the first official involved to admit such a high death-toll. But Mr Papon went on to claim the victims were "dissidents" killed by another faction of the Algerian demonstrators, The claim was greeted in France with a mixture of disbelief and anger. The interior minister, Jean-Pierre Chevenement,

hinted he might allow police records to be opeoed in an at-

tempt to clarify the mystery. Mr Papon made his comments while answering questions oo his conduct as a public official during the Vichy period and his high-flying career after 1945. He said the higher death tolls claimed by some for the Algerian march were "farfetched".

Mr Papon, 87, is on trial for "complicity in crimes against humanity" for his part in the arrest and deportation of 1,500 Jews from the Bordeaux area in 1942-44. He told the court he had personally saved the lives of 139 Jews by striking them from the lists of those to be arrested. He rejected the prosecutioo's claim that he sought to advance his career by rounding up Jews as efficiently as possible.

He had, be said, "participated in the Nazi repression of the Jews with anguish." He had made "every effort to save as many members of the Jewish community as possible". He claimed he and his wife had "cried" at Christmas 1943, thinking of the Jews who had

just departed (on his orders). Startling as these claims were, they tended to undermine part of the case presented by Papoo's own lawvers: that he was not aware that the Jews he rounded up would be sent to death camps.



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15/ENVIRONMENT

Shell looks at the sun as energy source of future

The world's biggest oil ompany is taking a erious interest in green, enewable energy. Shell's urprise decision to nvest hundreds of nillions of pounds in olar power is probably a recognition that oil's days are numbered rather than just PR, says Environment Correspondent Nicholas Schoon.

By 2050, half the world's energy is going to come from renewable sources such as sunshine, wind, running water and green plants rather than from oil, gas, coal and nuclear, according to a scenario Shell is working to.

The Anglo-Dutch group said it would be investing £300m over the next five years in expanding its capacity to make solar cells and in growing trees to be burnt in electricity-generation power stations. It is a shift environmentalists have long been demanding.

Jim Dawson, president of the oevly created Shell Ioternational Renewables, said no other company was investing as much. His aim is to win at least 10 per ent of the world market for solar or photovoltaic

cells by 2005. Shell had made its decision mainh because of how it expecter the energy world to chang over the next 50 years. "We have not reacted in a

eaths

f)

what the environmental groups and others say. We'd be stupid if we didn't."

The new strategy compares with that of the other UKbased oil giant, BP, which has taken an earlier and larger, interest in photovoltaics. BP already has 10 per cent of the market, currently worth over £600m a year and growing at some 14 per cent every 12

Growing trees to hurn them in power stations may seem a strange way of providing green, renewable energy. But if the trees chopped down are replaced by young, growing trees in plantations it is. These growing trees absorb carbon dioxide, the main global warming gas, which is produced when coal, oil, gas and also

wood are hurnt. If wood replaces fossil fuels in power stations, and new wood is constantly being grown to replace it, then no extra carbon dioxide is released into the

Shell already has plantations of fast growing trees in South America, Africa and New Zealand, covering an area larger than Greater London, It promises that it will not take wood from virgin forests and where there are stands of natural trees near or among its plantations these will he

Shell believes the hig market for renewables is in rural areas of developing countries where many homes and husinesses are not on the electricity grid. It envisages buildings

knee-jerk way to environmen- covered with photovoltaic cells, tal pressure, but we do listen to and small power stations using locally grown wood. It plans to build several in the next few

> Yesterday, Greenpeace UK welcomed the strategy. "It is significant that they are trying to catch up with BP, but we won't be able to judge how serious they are for several years," said solar campaigner Marcus

"Hopefully 1997 will come to be seen as a turning point,"

In terms of Shell's total investment each year, which goes mostly into oil and gas exploration and oil products like plastics and chemicals, the new money for renewables is tiny about one per cent.

But the planned investment in its new division is only a little less than what has been invested each year in Britain through the 1990s by the entire private sector on installing renewable energy sources.

Rupert Fraser of the UK Renewable Generators Consortium, which represents this young industry, said: "I think Shell is a serious player. They're cautious people, and they wouldn't want to make a fuss about getting into renewables if they had to get out again a few years later."

Shell is also working on genetic engineering of trees, to make them more resistant to frost and easier to turn into paper, at its forestry research division in Kent. That will not please Greenpeace, which is strongly opposed to the new technology of switching genes



Undersea menace: A striped dolphin caught in a drift net in the north-east Atlantic

Photograph: Greenpeace

Dismay at bid to end whaling ban

The Government was yester- sumption of whaling would day urged to resist "bullying tactics" by Japan and Norway when ministers meet next week to discuss a plan for the resumption of limited commercial whaling.

It was also urged by the RSPCA to drop its opposition to a ban on European drift nets and end the slaughter of thousands of whales and dolphins. The proposal to allow a re-

mean "disaster" for the world's endangered whales if it gets the go-ahead at the International Whaling Commission meeting in Monaco, the London-based Environmental Investigation Agency

Commercial killing of Minke whales has been banned since 1986 but both Japan and Norway still hunt

them, using a loophole in the rules which allows "scientific" quota catches.

The new plan, put forward by the Irish, would allow Japan and Norway to kill whales within 200 miles of their coastlines - hut in return they would have to accept the establishment of a global sanctuary for whales and the closing of the legal loophole on

scientific catches,

But environmentalists warn the vast majority of whales spend some time in coastal waters, so the plan could expose virtually the entire world pop-

ulation to hunting.
Dave Curry, of the EIA, said that the proposal belonged in "cloud cuckoo land", and added: "It bears no reality to what goes on in Tokyo fish markets where whale meat ends up for sale at £200 per kilo."

Threat to green space

The Government was yesterday under pressure to halt a local authority's "disastrous decision" to back the building of 10,000 new homes on Green Belt land.

Friends of the Earth challenged ministers to act after Hertfordshire County Council gave the go-ahead for a new settlement west of Stevenage.

The environmental group said the development will create an almost continuous urban sprawl between Stevenage and Hitchin.

But a spokesman for the Department of the Environment said it would not intervene unul the council gave formal notice that it intended to adopt the

modified plan. The spokesman added: "The Government has recently re-affirmed its commitment to protecting the countryside including Green Belt in relation to out-of-town developments and is currently carefully considering responses to a Green Paper on household growth.

"In doing so, the Government is committed to make the best possible use of brownfield sites and urban areas to create jobs, re-generate communities and protect the countryside."

FoEarth said more than 4,000 people objected to the scheme at a public inquiry and the decision was made in the face of opposition from the Conservatives, the largest group on the council.

Simon Festing, FoE housing campaigner, said: "Labour has consistently said it would protect the countryside. Ministers must overturn this disastrous decision and review their housing policies to stop urban sprawl and allow house-builders to use derelict land in towns and cities."



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Glorious gallery threatens to eclipse its contents

The world swooned over the Guggenheim Museum's architecture, with its curved titanium plates burnished by the sun. A question remains whether the museum, which opens on Sunday, will work as a gallery.

Our correspondent in Madrid believes it will, as long as it continues to house the bold masterworks which the New York foundation shipped in for the inaugural exhibition.

Frank Gebry's spectacular building swirks around a central atrium, where light sloshes through glass and metal windows that leap like fish from the floor to the 165ft flower-petal ceiling. Claes Oldenburg's Soft Sinutlecock, perched on a topmost balcony, sends creamy canvas feathers cascading down the central wall.

The galleries lunge from this hub in accordance with the Guggenheim director Thomas Krens's philosophy of a 21st-century museum: "We wanted to challenge the outdated, encyclopaedic notion of a mu-

BY ELIZABETH NASH

seum that leads you blindly through a labyrinth of individual examples of everything we know. That is not a post-modern, post-technological take on knowledge. Our 19 galleries are each chapters, or short stories, in an anthology of this century's visual culture," he said.

Here are Lichtensteins and Warhols that seem poster-sized. Walk through Snake, a Richard Serra installation of curved steel weighing 160 tons that sits quietly to the side of the room. It will take you several minutes. Then take a 100-yard stroll to where Oldenburg's fabulous scarlet Knifeship - a galleon-sized penknife whose blades lift and protruding oars row majestically - looks set to roll out to sea.

"The visitors can always get their bearings," said Krens about these centrifugal rooms - some futuristic in shape, others with classical proportions. This was reassuring. Like Alice, I was beginning to feel I had obeyed the instruction "drink me" and would soon be unable to embrace a



Gehry remains unhappy about this 450ft main gallery, the one that from outside looks like a ship poking beneath the main motorway bridge entering the city. "I wanted to put walls in and make it three separate galleries but he [he pointed to Krens] wouldn't let me."

Krens insists this constitutes the building's great strength: "Much of the art of the last 40 years has been 'of scale'. It's our responsibility to respond and provide a context. No other museum could show these works as well as this building," he said this week in Bilbao.

works are in danger of being overwhelmed by a building that certainly fulfils Gehry's aim: "Its very important to have a museum that makes an important statement and has a presence in your life. It's all experimental. We're not precious about this. We're trying things out."

The Guggenheim Foundation has pulled out the stops for the opening of its flagship in Europe. Eight Anselm Keifers seem perfectly at home in their own gallery, whose walls curve upwards and sideways in all directions. Three-dimensional sunflower stalks and metal shards dart from the walls and the floor. Only the mono-The effect is thrilling, but the lesser chrome tones keep you from falling over.

Nine splendid Kandinskys - mercifully hung in conventional rooms - sweep from fauvism through cubism and expressionism to abstraction, complemented by Léger, Picasso, Braque, Miro and a clutch of German expressionists, with a nod to Surrealism (Max Ernst) by way of what an American critic dismissed as "two piddly Mondrians". Damien Hirst, engaging and lively, has an upper gallery to himself.

Not all these marvels will remain. More than half the exhibits will change as the Guggenheim rotates its vast collection. This was the agreement between the Basque regional authorities, who paid £70m for the building, and the Guggen-

heim, which will supply 80 per cent of its

Thomas Krens is confident that Picasso's masterpiece Guernica - withheld by Madrid's Reina Sofia Museum on account of its fragile state - will eventually be shown

"I fully expect Guernica to come," he said. "The Basques have paid for it with their blood and suffering. We have designed a special truck to provide the safest movement of an artwork that has ever taken place - and we'll work with the Reina Sofia on installing it."

Jeff Koons' giant Puppy sculpture, studded with 70,000 pansies, dominates the

looking at works of art in the Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, during a presentation to the press on Wednesday.

The Spanish King and Queen wil open the museum, below, on Sunday Police foiled a plan by Basque Eta terrorists to mount a rocket attack at the opening

Photograph: Txema Fernandez/Al

PRIZE POSSESSIONS

Richard Serra: Snake 1994-96 Georges Braque: Piano and Mandola 1909-10, Violin and Palette 1909 Marc Chagall: Paris Through the Window 1913, Green Violinist 1923-24 Andy Warbol: One hundred and fifty Multicoloured Marilyns 1979 Robert Rauschenberg: Barge 1963 Picasso: Mandolin and Guitar 1924 Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen: Knife Ship 1985, Wood covered with vinyl, steel, aluminium and motes with blades vertical. Roy Lichtenstein: Preparedness 1968. three panels Anselm Kiefer: Sun-ship 1984-85 Vasily Kandinsky: Blue Mountain 1908-1909 Several Circles 1926 Damien Hirst: Two Similar Forms in

forecourt. But it was outflanked the week by a darker installation, of bouques candies and a black-draped Basque flag, marking the spot where Basque separatist Eta gunmen shot a policeman on Minday. The policeman prevented Eta from liding 12 anti-tank missiles, which were pimed to explode at Saturday's opening by the King Juan Carlos and Queen Sola of

Endless Motion (Broken) 1993.

Security has been tightened and the cocktail receptions have been scaled dwn, but the authorities insist: "nothing will take us step back" to stop the public from isiting what is already a triumphant syrbol

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Publish US boo

Struggling author attracts £2m for debut novel

An English author has set a new record in publishing this week at Frankfurt Book Fair.

Louise Hancock looks at the current trend towards big money advances for debut novels.

Astruggling English author is set to receive at least £2m for his dehut novel. The Learus Child by Robert Mawson, a former pilot and advertising copywriter, tells the story of an English couple's attempt to bring their daughter out of a coma.

His literary agent, Christopher Little, isconfident that the manuscript, touted as another buge success along the lines of The Horse Whisperer, will secure the author a

"I haven't had time to for them all up, but be will make easily om from book rights and advances alone," said Mr Little,

The British publisher, Transworld, are reprited to bave paid £420,000 for the rights in his country. International publishers have also been keen to secure the rights textle novel, with Bantam in the US reported to be willing to pay nearly £1m for

literary interest in the manuscript, finished only two weeks ago, was instantankous. Mr Mawson's agent submitted it to nne publishers in this country. The first repies began arriving the same afternom. One representative went so far as to camp on the agent's doorstep the very

n Frankfurt, where the world's biggest book fair is currently taking place, auctions aregoing on to secure the international

Mr Mawson's success, which follows a lifdong desire to write a bestseller, gives hoje to thousands of aspiring authors. His fire attempt. A Ship called Hope, was a famire.

But his agent claims be knew the latestbook would be a success from the beginning. "I thought we were really, really on o something big. It is very rare that you have a book that appeals to different nationalities with equal excitement," be said.

The financial windfall came at an op-

portune time for the struggling writer. He had given up his job and moved to a small cottage in France to write a novel, but was facing financial ruin.

Now he will receive several million pounds in book advances. But the incredible success of Nicholas Evans' debut novel The Horse Whisperer, currently being filmed by Robert Redford, suggests he could make far more.

Mr Hill was coy about the possibility of The Lazarus Child following a similar path, but he did admit: "Film rights are huzzing too but nothing is settled yet."

The Lazarus Child follows a string of debut novels which have made their authors instant millionaires.

Last year, The Big Picture by Douglas Kennedy, a 42-year-old London-based journalist, became America's first "milliondollar novel" when three of America's most powerful publishing companies fought for the North American rights.

In the same year. Arundhati Roy, the Booker Prize-winning author of The God of Small Things, received world wide advances totalling over £1 m.

But the potential film deal is even more lucrative. The last couple of years have seen a staggering number of record breaking deals as film producers seeks to turn bestselling books into equally successful films.

John Grisham is the best known member of this "multi-million club". He recently signed an \$8m deal for his book The Runaway Jury, tipped to be match his previous blockbusters, The Client and The Firm.

But British authors are not far behind, Nicholas Evans' The Horse Whisperer was the first to break into this exclusive market. His novel was the focus of a fierce bidding war, eventually won by Robert Redford for £2m; at the time, it was only half-finished.

Perhaps even more astounding was the case of Philip Kerr from Wimbledon, west London. His first attempt at fiction, Gridiron, about a building which takes revenge on its occupants, merited a \$1m

On the strength of this, Tom Cruise paid £1m for a 10-page summary of his next book. The author was quoted as saying: "Now I've just got to start writing it."



Declared genius: Stephen Fry as Oscar Wilde in Wilde, which opened last night at the Odeon, Leicester Square, London. The film is directed by Brian Gilbert, with Jude Law as Bosie

Shopping refugee creeps back to a warm welcome

Nicola Horlick crept back and conquered. The megabucks banker with a penchant for Cook Report tactics and large families, had hated the town so much the last time she was here that she got arrested trying to

But that was some time ago and Cheltenham Ladies College has changed considerably since then. "When I was here you were only allowed out to go shopping once a term. Can you imagine it? Once a term!"

Clearly not. Something had to give, so young Nicola went off to a day school in the North where she was able to fully develop her unerring ability to shop for even bigger and better unit trusts.

She was slimmer than they remembered, "I've lost two stone", and a lot less scary than they imagined. She wasn't able to say that she was always going to be a working mum, but she was sure of one thing: "I can't go into politics because if I do Tim has said that he will divorce me."

She answered their questions on fiscal policy and told them that she still makes ber own Christmas cake and doesn't let the children watch too much television. The matrons cheered and embraced their nervous schoolgirl,

As they did the journalist and broadcaster Jonathan Dimbleby. So much so that, if he was ever in need of yet another job to add to his already bulging portfolio, he could happily rely on being made mayor of Cheltenham.

The faithful wanted to know, indeed were secretly praying, if his friend Chris Patten, the Last Governor, the subject of his new book, would consider returning to the Tory Party. After a considered pause be bad to admit be really Palin is due to arrive later!" couldn't say.

CHELTENHAM LITERARY FESTIVAL SPONSORED BY

THE INDEPENDENT



Nicola Hortick: Living on the edge in Cheltenham

At the moment, Chris was in France preparing his own book. But, if pressurised, be thought it would be difficult for ex-governor Patten to resist. "But personally," he belpfully added, "I can't see why he would want to spend the next 10 years of his life in that particular piranha pool."

They sighed in agreement, after all, they too were liberals now. After the event, Dimbelby confessed that be had gone to the Waterstones book shop to warn them to expect a buge swell in customers. "I told them, be prepared, Michael

— Sam Taylor

Publishers cry foul as cheap US books are sold on-line

Valerstones, one of Britain's begest books retailers, said visterday it was considering how to deal with the threat of acion by the Publishers' Asso iation to stop the sale of Anerican books over the Intenet.

Ze.

The Publisbers' Association, the body which represeits UK book publishers. re-ealed vesterday that it was ansidering proposals to stop the on-line sale of United Sates editions of books to UK nsumers. US Based Inter-Me booksellers such as Barnes aid Noble and Amazon have iscreased sales to the UK in reent months and often offr large discounts on the list rice of books.

The Publishers' Associaton says legal advice sugests such sales may breach opyright, if a UK edition of tie same title was also availale. It has already cracked own on a number of UKbsed on-line booksellers ranning to sell discounted US ditions over the Net.

But Internet selling is a

growing part of the book retailing market. Waterstones. for example, set up its internet site 12 months ago and says that since then it has enjoyed growth of 35 per cent a month,

The WH Smith subsidiary plans to introduce US editions to its Internet bookstore early next year - a move which looks likely to bring it into direct conflict with the Associ-

Yesterday, Sally Taplin, new media manager at Waterstones, said that the company had not yet decided how to deal with the threat, but added that publishers were going to bave to "look hard" at developments in the retail market if booksellers were not going to lose business.

"If that's what the customer wants, then booksellers are going to have to look hard at the arrangements which currently exist to see they are not damaging their business," she said.

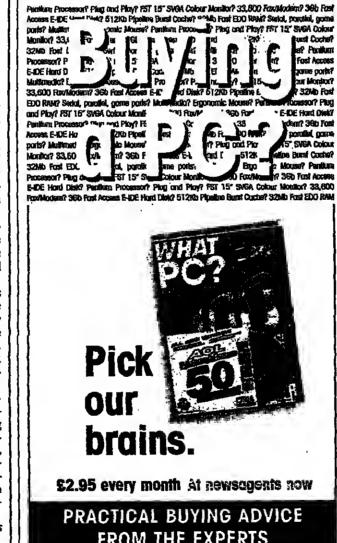
"It's a global market and ... booksellers might not want to be competing on-line, but

that's possibly the reality of the situation. It may be that just as as the Net Book Agreement was a publisher's agreement that needed to be reviewed, I think it's come to a stage where there's so much discussion around it people will

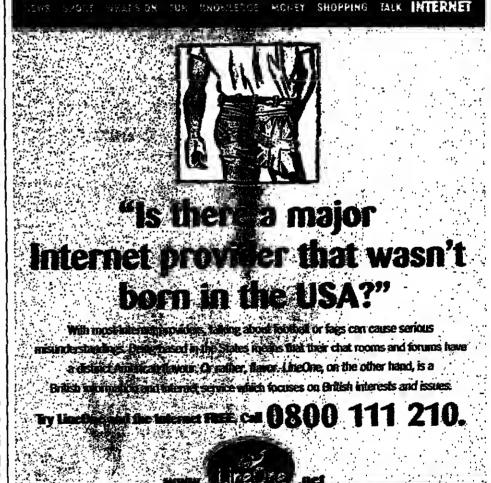
have to look at it." If the extra retailing medium led to an overall increase in demand, she said, then there was potential for all

sides to be happy. "We feel that publishers are very important and we want to work barmoniously with them and not damage that relationship," she said. "But we do believe that what the customers want is equally important."

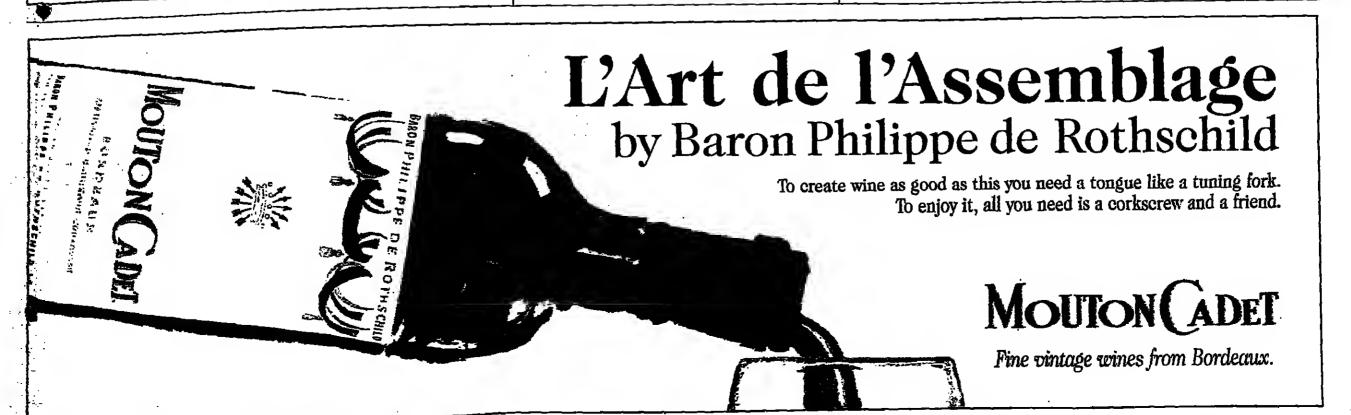
Many bookstores have recently set up their own internet shopping site, including Book Data, which can dispatch books from Dillons, Hammicks or the PC Bookshop. There are also a number of online-only stores such as Bookpages and the Internet Booksbop.



FROM THE EXPERTS



it's what you want to know



Overworked women: do they quit - or just quit moaning?

High-flying career and a fulfilling personal life? It can't be done, says Elizabeth Perle McKenna, and women shouldn't even be trying. We gave her new book to 20-something Clare Gamer and, thing else. opposite, working mother Diane Coyle. Here is their response.

A new generation of young women takes for granted that they can succeed in a man's world, on men's terms, and weather with case all the attendant pressure, politics and stress. There may be a price to pay in their personal lives, but it's worth paying in the hrave, new, downsized world.

However, according to an older and therefore wiser American woman, who woke up and smelt the coffee at 40, it doesn't have to be this way. What's more, there is trouble ahead for any woman who builds her identity solely around her work. After the women's movement, she says, comes a second battle: the battle for work to take its due place along all the other important aspects of our lives.

Elizaheth Perle McKenna, a furmer publishing executive, describes her book When Work 30 - before they've even start-Doesn't Work Anymore, published here this week, as a "wake-up call" to all women who feel there is an increasingly adversarial relationship hetween the professional and and the personal. We've got the solutions, she says. We just don't dare implement them.

She argues that women are they thought would set them free. They may have parity, but it's making them miserable. The solution, she says, is to fight for a feminised workplace. But this battle is harder to win than the original one for equality. "The women's movement was founded on anger," she explains, * It is very hard to do this second movement because it is founded on depression.

To any 20-something woman who is lucky enough to have landed a job in her chosen career all this may come as a hit of a shock. Success equals a good job and who they are is. to a large extent, defined by what they do. But are they being honest? On the surface, work gives self-esteem and fi-

nancial independence, but, secreily, some women are already feeling a bit jaundiced. They know that these days a job is not for life and that no amount of sacrifices will guarantee promotion or, more important, deep personal happiness. They want to work, but not at the expense of every-

Mary, a 30-year-old marketing executive. On hearing about Miss McKenna's book she said wistfully: "Is she saying we should give up? I think we should." Hang on a minute. This from a woman who is about to take up the offer of a bigger and better job, complete with company BMW. Surely some mistake?

and inwardly wanting".

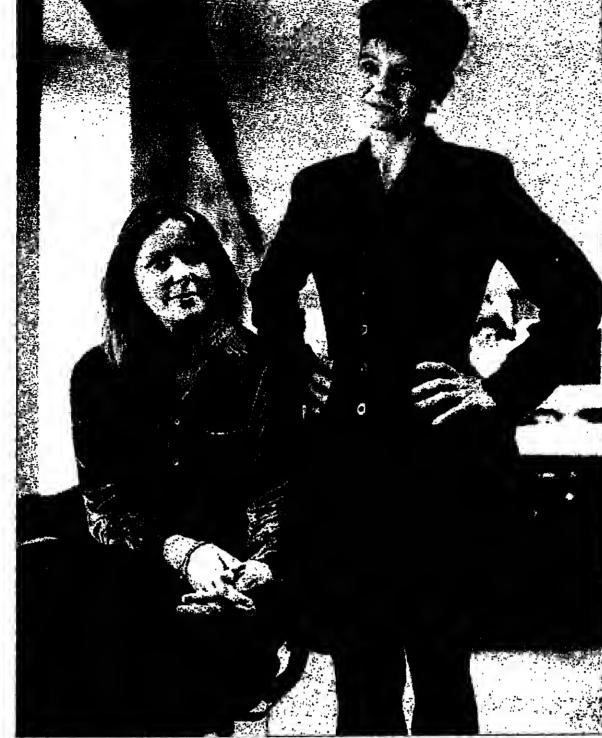
But what should they do? Are they on course for a full-scale collarge at 40? Downshifting before ed a family - sounds absurd. McKenna would say that if they are to avoid feeling washed up, bitter and betrayed 10 years down the line, eating too much, drinking too much, weighed down with exhaustion and depression, they must, apparently,

"Through my twenties I concentrated on work. I worked at work, flirted at work. Occasionally, I dated at work. I loved work and felt a puffed-up pride at having to spend a Saturday at the office; it made me important." Her account may sound a hil extreme, but she is the product of American corporate culture which is probably more demanding and work-obsessed than the British equivalent. Nevertheless, we all know people whose work is their life and they are proud of the fact.

Take one friend of mine,

"It's five days to two days," she explained. "That's the wrong balance. You spend the majority of your life working and, even if it's enjoyable, it's stressful. I could take a four-day week in my present firm, but pride stops me. It's convention that's forcing me on to make that next step." She is, according to McKenna, a prime example of the legions of women who are "outwardly successful

heed her story. She should know. For 20 imprisoned by the very thing years she followed a one-track path. Her career ("as good as my father's") was "sacred ground and synonymous with who I was". Working met her "financial, emotional, intellectual and self-esteem needs".



In her early thirties, McKenna's road hegan to narrow. Her self-esteem was "in the toilet from trying to be everything to everyone and ending up being nothing to myself". She had "indigestion in

my soul" and was experiencing "a subtle but consistent atrophying" of the importance of other aspects of ber life. By her late thirties, she had a son and her life was becoming increasingly unsatisfactory. She found herself faced with an all-ornothing choice between 'meaningful work" or "some 1950s home fantasy". She resented the choice, "hut there it was". When she finally decided to walk out of the office door, she immediately felt a "non-person", her whole identity collapsed and in the first week without a paycheck she became "worthless instantly".

Not a pretty prospect. Brenda Barnes, who recently resigned from her job as president and chief executive of Pepsi-Cota's North American operation to spend more time with her family, is an extreme example, but an example nevertheless of "the system that creates these idiotic choices", says Miss McKenna. Sometimes only a grave illness stops us in our tracks, sometimes the

way we work can be "fatal". Her answer is to change the present rules for success, ie Rule 1: Work comes first, above all personal or family concerns. Rule la: If you're a man you can break rule 1 and be a great guy: if you're a woman and you break rule 1, you're not serious about your future. Rule 2) Long hours are a requirement... She advocates four-day weeks so that we can live more balanced lives, citing research which shows that most people can cut 20 per cent of their salary and maintain their lifestyles. But she rejects the term "downshifting", implying as it does a diminution and suggests that we must learn not to put "all our eggs in one briefcase".

She points out, quite rightly, that one of the most potent harriers to leaving a career path, even for a year or two, is the fear of not being able to return. Women fear they will end up taking what Miss McKenna calls "Mommy Track" jobs repetitive. lower-status work -

which in turn cause stress. So how convincing is she? A porous work environment in which we could come and go. be enriched, rich and fulfilled at any one time sounds wonderful. But, sadly to me and most of my contemporaries, the idea of putting up our bands and demanding a four-day week or refusing to work long hours would be tantamount to career suicide. If we decide to take a few years out, can we seriously expect to hop hack on the same rung of the ladder?

I wish your were right. Miss McKenna, hut I fear you may be leading us down the Mommy Track before we are even

'When Work Doesn't Work Anymore by Elizabeth Perle McKenna is published by Simon & Young women are being sold a pup by Elizabeth Perie McKenna and similar backlash authors, writes Diane Coyle. And it is such a seductive argument to put to people who are working incredibly hard compared to 20somethings a decade ago, when I was in the early stages of my

It goes as follows: you are an ambitious professional woman who wants to get to the top in your chosen career. You will accomplish this but at the expense of your personal life and, especially, having a family. In a decade's time, when your hiological clock is winding down, you'll regret your choices. Escape from this unfair dilemma by opting out of the rat race on your own terms now!

Enough of this is true to make it seem a valid argument. A lot of professional jobs make unacceptable demands on family life (for both women and men). A lot of 30somethings (both female and male) are stressed and unhappy. Men are expected to do it all, too, these days, work 10 hours and then go home and

change nappies. It is true to say that the demands of work have increased. Career-track jobs not only demand long hours in the office, v their victims every where, all the time, thanks to pagers and mobile phones.

The logic fails, though, in claiming that there are only two choices, and that only women have to make them. The world of work is imperfect, but it is not an cither/or place. You do not have to either be a brilliant success in your career or stay at home with the kids, your selfesteem draining away. And because the world is a subtler place than that, there is no need to demand utopian change in

the workplace. Now, I'm no Nicola Horlick, running my large household like a small husiness and doing a high-powered City job on the side. But I do have a demanding job that I love and a husband and son whom I also love. When my son was a baby, I dropped off the career track for three years to work from home.

Then I scrambled back on. This is nothing special. Lots and lots of mothers work. We "career women" have to make sacrifices. You miss some of those incredibly rewarding moments in a child's development. You also miss some

incredibly important meetings at the office. Does this mean I isn't worth trying to find; a compromise in the imperfect world that we face? Absolute-

Obviously, this is not to essarily easy. You need luid if you have children who ire sick or you need to sleep 12 hours a night, it will become much harder. You need tobe prepared to put up with mperfections and with beng slightly shambolic in all areas of your life. You have to work hard and be organised. You have to give up things like nightclubbing, or leisurely days shopping or catching the latest movies. What I miss most of ill is time to myself, because there are constant demands from both home and work.

I don't think any woman br man who works would oppose changes that made the works place less rigid and the choces therefore less difficult. This will bappen, slowly. For one thing, the public culture is changing the further behind ve teave the harsb Thatcher era.

More important, there is a shortage of young people. Our population is ageing. In the atest year for which figures are available, the number of 16 o 25 year olds in Britain fell ly 000 and the number of 5 to 30 year olds has fallen by 180,000 over three years. Before long, employers will to forced to make work more tractive to those starting out of their career.

But altering working ratterns would not prove a panacea. When there are chices, there is bound to be a nied for compromise. How mich better to have the choice of everal ways to be able to fill your time, and to have a stah at a opflight career even if it presents you with some difficult dildumas, than not to have the ip-

tion at all. Ms McKenna says we ned to redefine success, to equating it with an all-abse. ing, high-flying career that his been designed to suit mb. She ignores the old feminist sight that it has been designed to suit men because it is succi We women should still want Still. I wish Ms McKenna w in her personal effort to addit a lower profile and spend mile time with her family.

Diane Coyle is economics et of 'The Independent'

Down with homophobia, up with zips: meet the new, improved gay man



LYTTLE

If the jig is up for the nutters, then the intricate minuet may also be over for all the outsiders addicted the role of witty, artistic and emotionally sensitive sexual outlaw ...

Shall we wrap our lips around the New, Improved Homosexual? The discussion is overdue. True, there have been sightings, rare as Bigfoot but not as attractive, since the Stonewall riots 28 years ago. But each glimpse has been shrugged off, yea, even by gay politicos - especially by gay politicos; well, their job is to demand change, not dream the individual who might come after change. Now bere we are at the beginning of the end of something and instead of rejoicing, I instead hear my people clutch their beads and cry out, "What's to become

Let me explain. Every day of the last couple of weeks seemed to bring a new advance for those who think pink. So many

advances that Jeremy Paxman detected a ... breakthrough. First there was Lisa Grant receiving the go-ahead from the European Court Of Justice to proceed with her discrimination case against South West Trains for not affording her girlfnend equal status with belerosexual partners. Then the European Court of Human Rights deemed the UK's unequal age of consent wrong, prompting the promise of an early parliamentary vote. Meanwhile, William Hague wrote to Tory gay group

Torche, thanked them for their activism. best wishes, big kisses on the bottom. Michael Portillo, or a pod version of same, stood before Conservatives and told them that other people's sex lives did not require judgment. Michael Howard repeated the message. You waited for him to choke - well, wished - hut no. Neither did Peregrine Worsthorne. Asked about immigration rules being, ahem, bent so gay men could bring totty into the country. Perry languidly waved gay marriage through and noted that times have changed, ie that nutters had better recognise the jig is up.

What else could explain the Daily Mail editorial throwing in the towel? Throwing down the gauntlet is more the Muil thing, but they had read the runes: the queers are coming. And coming. And coming.

Anyhow, as Victor Meldrew and EMF might shout, unbelievable. Not that there isn't some distance to travel. Pension, inheritance and adoption issues continue to fester and the Hate Crimes Bill doesn't mention queer bashing. Still, shouldn't the kicked around and put upon be just a hit overjoyed? But I see no parties, no club nights on the theme of embracing the glorious future. Instead I fear the consc-

quences of identity crisis and what the burden of responsibility might do to even the most muscular back. For if the jig is up for the nutters, then the intricate minuet may also be over for all the outsiders who enjoyed playing the somewhat addictive role of the witty, fashionable, artistic and emodonally sensitive sexual outlaw: tragic heroes of their own lives who often sneered at poor breeders from a subculture and sensibility that didn't exactly encourage you

to ... I'll say it, shall I? ... grow up. That Millie Jackson has a point when she warbles about "the freedom of my chains". Remove the forces of repression from your life and who are you if not the outline - the consciousness - shaped by those titanic pressures? That's the question currently looming into view and forcing boyz to lie down in darkened rooms with whale song tapes and a stiff man: if we're getting it together, why do we feel as if we're falling apart? Pay no heed to the previously reiterated goal of full integration and assurances that "we're just the same as you"; it's a gay man's right to change his mind and Calvins on a hourly basis, and that was propaganda anyway and doesn't count.

Gay men have been caught psychical-

ly unprepared. Partially because we thought the Pride march would be longer (as, in terms of attitude, rather than law, it still could bc). And because ~ shocked faces, everyone - we perhaps never really expecied the breakthrough or wanted it. Why else haven't we thought through the aftermath of being on the inside?

Elizabeth Perle McKenna,

call' to America's women

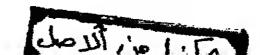
author of the 'wake-up

For instance, what might assimilation mean for the urban scene? When ghetto walls crumble do boyz continue to be boyz, or is a bargain (unconsciously) struck with the New Millennium and, oh dear, New Labour? A bargain apparently conditional on the spring cleaning of gay sexuality, partnership rights and marriage would seem to carry the covert message of down with homophobia, up with zips. I only ask: how can a boy continue to palm off every sexual encounter as a celebration of self in the twisted face of a hostile society

when society just ain't that hostile? Hmm? This is what happens when you publicly insist you're no different from anyone else while secretly believing you're terribly special indeed. It's a contradiction that really couldn't be helped. It's such a great excuse for foul behaviour - for hlaming everyone else for your bad days - and now

gay men are apparently expected to be nie and as ordinary as advertised. Is this te: New, Improved Homosexual the bresthrough asks for the pseudo-heterosexal? Straights ticking off the boxes on ac demand list might very well think p.

They've certainly been encouraged to. And it might well be, unless the Nev. Improved Homosexual isn't chewed over The repercussions are enormous and at upset queens are off in corners, quotingst Theresa on more tears being shed over a swered prayers, never thinking to ask of what heterosexuals might do for us, bit what we might do for heterosexuals and le full spectrum of their living arrangemens and thought. There are ways of being/se ing we might bring to the party, if we de stop behaving like victims even in victor; who better to illuminate the suddenly hadsell concept of caring, compassion and erance? May I suggest the vext concentrate less on gains won and inceon choice exercised. Before "What's to licome of us?" is "What became of us?" at the infinitely postponed is overtaken y events, leaving gav men all dressed upittheir civil rights and bitching that the lokdoesn't actually suit them?



مكنا من ألاصل 19/ITALY'S EARTHQUAKE

Umbria shows the civilised way to cope with calamity



The series of earthquakes in Italy recently has not only damaged priceless church art but also forced thousands from their homes. In one of the worst-hit towns. volunteers are eager to help, while the country's notorious bureaucracy has been slow to react

lier.

376

ths

anifo is the sort of small Umhrian hill town you might, in happier times, have wanted to stop at for coffee and a gentle stroll before driving on towards the more ohvious pleasures of Urbino or Assisi.

Perched above the plateau of Colfiorito with a good view of the rolliog Appenines, it has pretty undulating streets, attractive stone houses and a couple of little bars kitted out with the statutory public telephone and inbacco counter.

Or at least it did. Since the first of the seemingly endless series of earthquakes to bave bit central Italy, nn 26 September, Aminim has become a ghost town. At least half of its buildings have cracked or crumbled. The streets are strewn with rubble and brokeo roof tiles. The twn roads leading in have been half-blocked off with metal barriers and flapping pieces of red and white tape.

eerie silence is the squeak of loose shutters creaking in the crisp autumn breeze.

A weather-beateo notice taped onto one of the metal barriers explains, in convoluted bureaucratese, that the place was officially evacuated on 1 October. In fact, the citizens of Annifo bolted as soon as disaster struck, not daring eveo to gather up their most basic possessions before leaving. The guts of their lives have literally spilled into the streets: a bright pink loo-brush in the rubhle, or a half-empty box of detergent, "for a fragrant hand wash". Some of the detritus has been gathered up as an offering beoeath a small wall shrine to Jesus, Mary and Joseph: a lamp, a clock, a pink telephone and a toy rifle.

The life of the town has reassembled at the bottom of the hill, on the municipal football pitch which has now been converted into a neatly laid-out tent city. About 250 people live in the navy blue government-issue teots, watched over by a group nf Neapolitan finance policemen taking a break from their usual duties and provided with food, drink, basic cluthing and hygiene by a clutch of volun-

This must be nne of the bestdressed refugee camps in the world: these people may be homeless and traumatised, but they are also wearing. Stefanel autumn colnurs and hrand-The only sound to break the new Timberlands. The showers

> these earthquakes is bow out of place they seem. Umbria, with food, is one of civilised places PHOTOGRAPHS contrast, 00 on earth. There BY BRIAN is something

may he a hit ropy (only three

to go mund, and water that re-

fuses to get hot when it is

oeeded), but the food would

ont disgrace the tourist dining-

rooms of Spoleto nr Gubbin:

pasta perfectly al dente, with

fresh tomato sauce and parme-

san, followed by a salad of

white beans and tuna fish, all

washed down with a rather

The most striking about

tasty Friulian white.

awe-inspiriog. HARRIS even perverse, about such a AND REPORT natural calami-BY ANDREW ty occurring . here - under-GUMBEL lining the grim fact that despite the eradication of war,

poverty and progress has done precinus little to protect itself against the unpredictable ravages of earth-

What can one feel but incomprehension at the sight of a house belonging to an eldery peasant couple in Colfiorito, the epicentre of many of the tremors, with its front ripped off and the dining-room furniture knocked off kilter, exposed to the elements like an outsize doll's house capriciously jolted

by some careless child? "We worked all nur lives to build this until, this Tuesday, it evectually toppled over - just as a house," said a glum Giuseppa crane was moving into positino Acerrini as she surveyed the to shore it up. wreckage. There are strange forces at work here. Even the is going to be slow and painful. hills have moved; we can see vil-First the tremors have in stop. lages in the next valley that were Theo everyone will have in. always hidden from view in the hunker down for the hitter

By Italian standards, this is a medium-sized disaster. The tremors that shook the northeast in 1976 killed more than 1,000 people and razed entire its greeo rolling hills, pretty towns. In the Naples hinterland white stone buildings, awe- four years later, the death toll some artistic heritage and great was almost 3,000. In Umbria

more than a dozen people have died, and the damage has been relatively isolated. Oh, but what damage. The media attentioo may have been focussed oo the Basilica

of St Francis plague in these parts, human in Assisi, but across the entire landscape one comes across half-crumpled medieval towers, churches reduced to empty shells and picturesque holiday villages flattened into dust.

The pretty town of Nocera Umbra, on the road to Urbino, has been abandoned and its great bell-tower sheared off on one side. In Foligno, an unfashionable valley town, a pretty bell tower above the town hall, complete with Ghibelline crenellations, was progressive-



Recovery from these events

Umbrian winter, already con-

tainer homes with decent heat-

Homeless: The tent city pasta is perfectly al dente, but the future is full of uncertainty for the people of Annifo. Top left: A Madonna statue on a shattered street Nocera Umbra, Natural beaupractical common sense - the ing systems are being brought ly shaken off its brick pedestal ty and human habitation do not

Italy of the volunteer forces.

The second is the creaking

machinery of state bureaucra-

cy, which is already showing

siuggishness and political pow-

er-play as it gears up to help the

posal by the state electricity

company to install a 150,000-

One ominous sign is a pro-

volt transmissino statinn near after nur beautiful country."

reginn get back oo its feet.

seem to have made any im-

pression on the planners, and

neither does the manifest risk

of future earthquake damage.

"Unfortunately this is the way

the state always behaves,

sighed one art restorer in As-

sisi. "We've learnt nothing in all

these years about how to look

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in to the area. It will be sever-

al years before everynne is re-

housed - and even then many

hill-top communities may be

abandoned altogether and re-

different Italys at work in the

recovery process. The first is an

Italy of tremendous solidarity.

spootaneous generosity and

IF WE'RE FASTER

THE AA OR RAC

WHY JOIN THEM?

Already, noe sees two very

built down in the valley.

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Scouts playing with homeless children. The container contains clothes donated by charities

NAME (MR/MFS/MISS/MS)



EDITOR: ANDREW MARK DEPUTY EDITOR: COLIN HUGHES. ADDRESS: I CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARE LONDON EIR 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 r vx: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171-345 2435

Imagine a group of people who are forced to find somewhere else to live whenever the neighbours find out who they are. Who are subject to zoning laws which exclude . them from certain areas of the country. Who are excluded from a wide range of occupations and may find it difficult to get any kind of job. Who have to register with the authorities under pain of imprisonment. A group driven eventually to live like vagrants, driven from parish to parish like paupers for whom no one wanted to be responsible under the Poor Law.

Unthinkable, surely, in late 20thcentury Britain? Except when those concerned are paedophiles, perpetrators of crimes so repugnant that their convictions are never spent. Many of them have served their time, but cannot pay their debt to society and face a life as medieval outcasts.

Robert Oliver has been hounded out of five English towns since his release from prison, after serving eight years of a 15year sentence for his part in the killing of

14-year-old Jason Swift. Now he has nowhere else to go and has surrendered himself at Brightoo police station, television set under one arm and all his worldly possessions in a carrier bag.

The police don't know what to do with him. If he chooses to go out, all they can do is follow him around, make sure he doesn't go near any children and protect him from the lynch moh.

Now, The Independent is totally against lynch law and vigilantism. But we have to admit that, while we are not in the mob, we could be accused of inciting the crowd from the sidelines. We helped to expose the terrible crimes of child abusers in care homes. We campaigned to have the voices of the abused heard. And we lent our weight to the NSPCC's campaign for a national register of child sex offenders.

This is a field in which we are prepared to consider measures from which civil libertarians bave traditionally shrunk. The register is a small step towards improving

the exchange of information between agencies so needed to detect and prevent child abuse. Nor should we shrink from considering seriously more drastic measures, such as surgical or chemical castration or literal life seotences.

But it cannot be right that paedophiles are driven into a kind of subhuman limbo, hounded to death or despair in the gutter. Nor is a policy consisting entirely of negative sanctions likely to succeed.

It is time to stand back and examine the nature, extent and causes of sexual preoccupation with children. The first point to be made is that most abusers are related (or step-related) to the children they molest. Predatory, calculating strangers the focus of most popular fears -- are rare, although that is not to say we need not worry about them. Second, one of the main causes of child abuse is physical or sexual abuse in the offender's own childhood. Both points suggest that the best policy of prevention is to strengthen families and

protect children. But even if Tony Blair's most ambitious rhetoric of "strong families" were to be realised, paedophiles would still exist and children would still

need to be protected. And this is the matter where the instincts, even of liberals, are their most draconian. Indeed, in principle, there is a strong case for castration -- normally the first refuge of hangers, floggers and moral simpletons. A substantial proportion of paedophiles are unwilling or unable to change their behaviour. But the evidence is that it does not work. Neither surgical removal of the testes nor drugs completely suppresses the sex drive. Last year, a new law was brought in requiring second-time child sex offenders in California to choose one or the other: but since then the hangerflogger lobby has been mysteriously quict. suggesting, at the very least, an absence of instant results.

So the liberal orthodoxy must remain dominant. Offenders should be encouraged

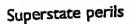
to take responsibility for their behaviour and helped to change it. Prison is not the best place to do this, nor is the exclusive company of other offenders the best environment - a serious policy of containment will be expensive. But it will require harsh measures too, for the few who will always be a threat. If medical intervention can be shows to work, it should be an option available. If some people have to be locked up for the whole of their lives, that should be, too. The important thing is that someone must decide.

The Lord the lawye

The real question about Robert Oliver is whether or not he is a threat to children. If he is, or if there is serious doubt, he should not have been let out (especially as there are seven years of his nominal sentence to run). If he is not, he should be protected. Someone must decide. Sex crimes against children cannot be treated as a single episode to be decided by a judge at one point in time, but a lifetime's responsibility for a clearly defined agency.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@ independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address.
Letters may be edited for length and claniv.

LETTERS



Sir: David Rowlands (letter. 14 October) trots out the old mantra that anyone against European integration is zenophobic.

Why is it xenophobic to prefer that one's own country is governed by its own parliament? In a fully "integrated" Europe the former independent nations will receive central direction from Brussels and Frankfurt by unclected officials.

Oh well, the European Parliament should be given real power to address the democratic deficit, says the federalist.

My vote will be reduced by a factor of at least 10, given the EU population of 400 million and would be counted in among German CDU voters, Spanish Panido Popular, French Parti Socialiste and so on.

What do I know of the political traditions and concerns of these parties, or they of mine? l do not understand why so many continental parties have the word "Christian" in their titles: it seems bizarre from a British perspective. How can I participate in political debate when I don't understand the parameters? Even more so if I do not speak all the requisite languages. I am trilingual and married to someone who has just acquired dual nationality. We are on good terms with our neighbours, an Italian/German couple, but we have no plans to knock a hole through our walls and share everything.

Why does Mr Rowlands feel so strongly about a federal Europe? Is it the dream of constructing a powerful bloc to stand up to the US and the Far East and the rest of the world? Isn't this just good old-fashioned power politics, with a country called Europe aggressively exerting itself on the world stage? Why did the European Parliament, a year or so ago, call for Europe to have its own nuclear weapons? PETER GARDNER

Oxford

Football fans abroad

Sir: I am alarmed at Tony Blair's insistence that he is entitled to an explanation of the events in Rome last Saturday from the Italians.

The chief objection on this side of the divide appears to be the refusal of the host country

to accept lock, stock and beer barrel the transportation of the traditional English Saturday night to their streets. Further, the nanny-statism that insists on

wet nursing people, sheeplike, through football matches in this country has not yet transferred itself abroad. Free expression is still al-

lowed at sporting occasions in Italy. This does require people to turn up early to a game, at least attempt to have some understanding of where they are going (a tiny bit of knowledge of the language, perish the thought, can belp) and be aware of the items that may not be acceptable for carriage into the ground (anything you can throw or light a fire with). In return they are allowed to create a hit of atmosphere and enjoy a lively and trouble-free experience. Step out of line, however and the carabinien bave but one tactic -- quell it as swiftty as possible with a show of

force. It may be right, it may be wrong hut it works for them.

As a football lover who intends to travel to France for next year's competition I find the whole thing disturbing. The Italians are normally the most amenable of people, particularly where the British are concerned. The French are likely to take a much harder line. MICHAEL KILLIN Woking, Surrey

Loyal workers

Sir: Hamish McRae is too dismissive of the value of loyalty at work ("How to survive the arrival of the disloyal work-

place", 15 October). He is right to draw attention to the vast mergers now being planned across Europe, and probably correct to predict a gloomy future for the emplnyees whose redundancy will represent an "efficiency saving". But companies cannot really

flourish in the longer term if they are staffed by anxious survivors constantly looking over

their shoulder. Nor can the boss

simply send a memo round in-

structing employees to "be loy-Senior managers earn loyalty, as McRae implies, by training and developing their people. Loyal staff, like loyal customers and loyal investors, support competitiveness and quality. Loyal employees develop a network of contacts and invaluable experience that

Financiers and accountants are unable to place a monetary value on loyalty, trust and morale, which is perhaps why these qualities get overlooked in discussions about the logic of mergers and acquisitions. JO GARDINER

would be lost if they chose to

Campaign Manager The Industrial Society London W1

Prison reformed

ENJOY!

Sir: The media reaction to the delayed Chief Inspector's report on Parkhurst prison ("Jail regime condemned as appalling". 8 October) would rightly cause public concern if radical action had not taken place.

Since 1992 the reports of the Board of Visitors indicated grave concerns over the treatment of prisoner/patients in the Health Care Centre.

The Governor's absolute priority after the escape had to be security. In addition he was faced with budget cuts, downgrading to Category B status and demoralised staff. The prisoners treated in the Health Care Centre remain, by the nature of their medical condition, very demanding, placing great strains on the skills and humanity of man-

agement and staff. During 1997 the restructuring of the Health Care Centre has begun to take effect. The

care shown to prisoners who are at risk of self-harm has reached a high standard. I am sure that the Chief Inspector will find considerable change for the better when he next visits. RICHARD GULLY Binstead, Isle of Wight The writer is a member of

'War' in Ulster

Parkhurst Board of Visitors

Sir: Thomas Sutcliffe's column of 8 October gave the impression that the "war" between the SAS and IRA was a failure.

Just before this offensive started the non-aligned and Unionist population were having to get used to increased violence. They saw the security forces as impotent. When the security forces hit back against the IRA's "active service units" IRA attacks, while not stopped, were certainly scaled down.

There were much-regretted innocents killed in these operaCannabis not so soft Sir: Andreas Whittam Smith (14 October) quotes from the journal Science in his defence of the recreational use of cannabis.

On 27 June two relevant papers were published: one showed that the emotional stress in marijuana withdrawal was caused by corticotrophin releasing factor, the agent responsible for the symptoms of opiate, alcohol and cocaine withdrawal, the second that tetrahydrocannuhinol (the active ingredient in marijuana) results in the same key blochemical event that seems to reinforce dependence on ot . er drugs, from nicotine to heroin, namely the release of dopamine in part of the brain's "reward" pathway.

The journal concluded that contrary to the popular view that marijuana is a relatively benign drug, new evidence suggests its effects in the hrain resemble those of 'hard' drugs such as heroin".

Dr MARTIN HEATH Public Affairs Officer, Brighton Division, British Medical Association

Lewes.

PRIESTLEY

tions but they were far fewer than

there would have been if the IRA

had been allowed to have the run

of the province, as they had up

until then. In a history of

bungling the Thatcher govern-

ment came up with a scheme

that, to a large extent, worked.

In a world in which all killing is

Thomas Sutcliffe's SAS/IRA

"war" was a far better "re-

cruiting sergeant" for the se-

curity forces of Northern

Ireland than the IRA. I speak

Sir: The week in review: The

Queen need not apologise for

the massacre in Amritsar (nor

Derry nor anywhere else); but

Tony Blair should not shake

bands with Gerry Adams be-

cause of the blood on them.

THOMAS HUTCHISON

McFADDEN

from experience.

DR CLYDE

bad, it was a necessary evil.

Life of Cairncross

Sir: There is no truth whatever in your reviewer's assertion ("The Enigma Spy", 7 October) that "other hands" wrote the autobiography of my brother, John Cairneross. Every word (except what appears in quotation marks) was written by him before his death, including the mistaken reference to Sir William Strang. The work of editing did not involve fresh writing, but only the addition of material from various drafts left behind.

Sir ALEC CAIRNCROSS Oxford

Hanging on

Sir: When telephone callers are caught in one of those cacophonous queues with a distorted musical pacifier, why are they not updated as to its changing length? At least then, there would be some sense of progress - or a rational decision to ring off.

GERARD M BLAIR West Linton, Peebleshire

When the TV boys are in town ...



KINGTON

The world of television is a mystery to many people, especially to those who work in it, so today I am bringing you some extracts from a work I have receotly come across which seems to shed some light on it. It is called Fubles from Media World, and that is just what it is: a series of simple, sometimes rather beautiful fables about the people who live in the strange world of film, television and

Here are several little tales from this unusual collection. See what you think.

The Lady who Walked to India Once upon a time there was a lady walking into her local village in Burma carrying a very

colourful parasol just as a film crew from Europe was shooting a sequence for a TV series to be called Around the Pacific Rim with Michael Palin Again But a Bit Further Away From the Centre Than Last Time. The assistant director noticed her and persuaded the director that she would look good passing behind the shot they were

shooting.
"OK," said the director. "but for God's sake tell her not to look round at the camera." "She says that is finc," said the translator, "but she wants

to know how far to walk." "Till we tell her to stop," said the director absently.

The first take was fine, and the film crew packed up ready to move on to the next location.

man noticed that the woman

was still walking, five hundred yards down the road. "Shouldn't we go and tell

ber to stop?" he said. "Not time," said the director. "Anyway, she'll realise." But the lady had more moral sense than the director. Three mooths later, she

miles away, where she died soon afterwards. Moral: When the TV boys are in town, leave your coloured parasol at home.

reached the border of India, 400

The Man in the Sbop Once, there was a man in a shop buying flower seeds. Everyone else in the shop was a film crew,

It was only then that the sound filming the shop, for this was where Rupert Brooke had once bought a tennis racket before the First World War, or perhaps where Ted Hughes had once bought some black ribbon to tie round his arm when a pet had died - anyway, it was for an arts documentary which you almost

> the background because he looked very authentic. "What's this for?" he said. "It's for a documentary on Siegfried Sassoon," said the

certainly didn't see, and the man

buying the seeds was filmed in

"Ah!" said the man with the seeds, who had never heard of him. "And when is it coming

out?" "In January," she said, for PAs are always female.

fables from the media world "I'll watch it," he said. And so he did. But his bit had been cut out.

Moral: If the people that run TV companies realised that everyone in the world has switched on at least once to see themselves on the telly, and always been let down, they would realise why nobody in the world ever trusts them on bigger matters.

The Man Whn Listened

to Noises If you have ever made a television programme outside, perhaps about sheep in the Welsh hillsides, you will know that every now and again, just as the director is about to shout "Action!", the sound man will say (quietly), "Sorry, aeroplane

coming." This means that the noise will make it impossible to film for at least five minutes, by which time the sun will have gone in again and the sheep will have moved.

Well, one day a TV director was having this trouble when be said in his exasperation. "Why can't I make a bloody programme about a sound man who has constant trouble with aircraft noise? Then at least we could go on filming when a plane comes over!"

This was overheard by a senior TV executive, who thought it would make a rather good off-beat programme to film a story based on the troubles of a sound man. So they wrote the script and got the actors (and a different director

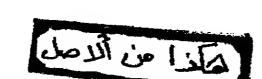
from the one who had had the idea, for which he never got paid or the credit) and went hack to the Welsh hills, which are gratifyingly full of lowflying aircraft, to do the story. which was to be called: Sony, Aeroplane Coming.

They set up the first scene, in which the actor playing the sound man arrives in his car, but just as a plane came in sight and the sceee was about to be shot, the real sound man put up his hand and told them to stop

"I'm sorry." he said, as the plane screamed overhead, "but I'm getting sheep noise." Moral: Well, at least someone

TV has still got standards.: More fables from the land

of media soonl



The Lord Chancellor puts the lawyers on trial



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DONALD MACINTYRE IN PLACE OF LEGAL AID

There is a brilliantly simple 19th century cartoon of two farmers swearily tugging at a cow from each end; it's obvious that each is claiming ownership. Underneath the beast is a bewigged and smiling gentleman sitting comfortably on a stool milking. The drawing graphically illustrates a great truth about litigation - that the lawyers never lose. It's a great truth which nevertheless is about to be turned on its head. One criticism of the Government is that it hasn't made many enemies. That may now change. A hard choice is on its way. Tomorrow Lord Irvine, the Lord Chancellor, takes on one of the most entrenched vested interests in the country - his own profession.

He will outline in a speech to the Law Society in Cardiff a genuinely radical reform to the legal system, in its own way the biggest since legal aid was first introduced by the Attlee government. It will extend across much of the civil justice system the revolutionary principle, tentatively and experimentally introduced by his predecessor for a small part of it, that lawyers should only he able to pick up their fees from litigants if they win their cases

Conditional fees, often known as the "no win, no fee" system, are in essence a simple idea. The lawyer isn't paid if he loses a case for damages but increases his charges by helping himself to a percentage of the payout to his client if he wins. That way he covers the costs for the cases he loses. It should make litigation much more plausihle for the growing group of people who aren't poor enough to qualify for legal aid but aren't rich enough to meet the costs themselves. It should indeed discourage many of the more frivolous cases; but it may well bring lawyers quite a lot of new business from those on middle incomes who shrink from the costs of litigation. The public will surely like the idea that lawyers at last have a powerful built-in financial incentive to perform well. But while it may be simple it isn't uncontroversial. The Bar Council, now surely the most formidable trade union in Britain, is marshalling its forces. The Law Society cannot be far behind.

What this is about, of course, is the spirassing legal aid budget. The principle that no-one should be excluded from going to court for damages by poverty is incontrovertible; but legal aid is a hungry monster. Since 1990-91, it has increased by 115 per cent, from £682m to £1.477bn. Ninety per cent goes on lawyers' fees. Since 1993-94, it has gone up by 22 per cent in a period of 7 per cent inflation. Legal aid has become for lawyers rather what housing benefit has become for landlords. It pays up relentlessly whatever the standard of service and the chances of a case succeeding. Suddenly, "no win, no fee" looks a much more attractive alternative. And Irvine will couple this to the death.

with the new fast-track, fixed-cost regime for civil courts, recommended by Lord Woolf, which will deter paid by the hour barristers from spinning cases out as long as they

The Bar Council's objections have so far been unpersuasive, to put it mildly. In a letter to Lord Irvine, Robert Owen QC, the Council's chairman, uses the peculiar argument that the amount by which lawyers increase their fees for winning cases will be be fixed according to their assessment of how risky the case is. But since most clients won't be able to asses that risk themselves, they may have the wool pulled over their eyes and end up paying their lawyers more than they deserve. Never mind that this problem could be reduced by capping the fees increase; or that when a leading silk starts warning that lawyers may be paid too well, it strains credulity to breaking point. Is Mr Owen really saying that lawyers are such sharks that they can't be trusted to administer the system properly? And if he is, then shouldn't be looking a little more rigorously at the professional ethics of his colleagues?

There are, of course, potential problems,

identified rather more cogently by the Legal Action Group than they have been by the Bar Council. One is that in cases of medical negligence actions - one of the principal deterrents against incompetence by surgeons and physicians - you need to spend around £5,000 on medical examinations, expert reports, and so on, before anyone can even make a sensible judgement about whether it's worth bringing a case at all. If the client has to meet those costs, the poorest NHS patients, who are every bit as vulnerable to medical negligence as the hetter off, wouldn't even get to first base. Another is the problem of insuring against defeat in all kinds of cases. Even if the risk of defeat would be much less than it is under the present system, paying the other side's costs when that happens is still a daunting prospect for litigants, especially poorer ones. But instead of bleating, in tones of rather unconvincing altruism, about this problem, perhaps the legal profession should consider meeting those costs themselves. After all these will be cases they have already assessed have a good chance of success; for them litigation is a husiness proposition. Why shouldn't they pay some of the up-front costs themselves? Irvine will keep an open mind tomorrow; he won't rule out the possibility of keeping legal aid for some of these costs. But he will need a lot of convincing that they can't under the new regime be met by the lawyers themselves.

Certainly if the reform means that poor people can't bring cases that they have every chance of winning, then it will have failed. Lord Irvine will make it clear tomorrow that he has not intention of allowing poor litigants with good cases to fall through the net. But equally there is no reason why those who qualify for legal aid shouldn't have to consider the same question as those who pay for legal action out of their own money: has my case a good chance of succeeding?

This is a lot tougher than anything the

previous government attempted on legal aid. But it goes with grain of its ideas about welfare reform. The public, if not the lawyers, will probably accept it because they don't believe, as they would have of the previous one, that this government is cutting for its own sake. It is possible, in the long run and within the long term public spending remit laid down by Gordon Brown to imagine saving from legal aid being spent on hospitals, or schools. Lawyers should remember that before they embark on a fight

Cyberpets can school us in the limits of virtual reality



SUZANNE **MOORE TAMAGOTCHIS** FOR PARENTS

At a meeting the other day I noticed a high-flying academic fiddling around in her bag. She is probably being paged by someone incredibly important," I thought to myself. At the end of the meeting she admitted that what she had in her bag was a Tamagotchi, a Japanese cyberpet. "I'm just looking after it" she said, "I've promised to keep it alive". I recognised the air of desperation in her voice for I too am suffering from Tamagotchi fatigue, from sleepless nights caused by this bleeping thing in my bed. My daughter sleeps peacefully while her virtual puppy demands to be fed or played with or given medicine and I wonder how to contact a virtual vet to have it virtually put down.

Tamagotchi means "Ioveable egg"; for the uninitiated, they look like key-rings with a tiny LCD screen in the middle. On screen the virtual pet is hatched as a baby -- Behitchi (Babesy) and the goal is to keep it alive as long as possible till it becomes Oyajitchi (Grampsy). You can buy puppies, kittens, chickens and dinosaurs, Dinosaurs are harder to keep alive because they need to have their vests on before they go to bed. You wouldn't want to be responsible for their extinction now would you? To lead a happy and healthy life Tamagotchis need to he constantly fed, exercised, cleaned up and given medicine. These things defecate, play hide and seek and can be naughty enough to require discipline. Unfortunately over-disciplining can also kill them as a zealous colleague reports: "Sure I had one but I beat it to death." When they die they grow little wings and float upwards. Presumably to cyber-heaven.

I am afraid that have become so callous that I have let ours bleep away all night only to be woken up by hysterical sobhing because the bloody thing had not turned into an angel. Instead it had died in its own excrement, because if you do not clean up the screen each time it produces a streaming turd, then the stuff piles up and the pet dies. Imagine if you can the sheer horror of it all. A dog



may be for life and not just for are alive so that we can look af-Christmas hut let me warn prospective owners, a Tamagotchi goes on for ever. Yes, they may be cute, a novelty even; but think about the responsibility, broken sleep, the constant attention and ask yourself are you ready for this,

Obviously we all think we can handle it. This latest craze, described to me as "Japan's revenge on the Western world" has swept through our schools and playgrounds. Tamagotchis are now sensibly banned from most schools, which means that mothers now have to baby-sit these cyber-pets while their kids are at school. They are no longer cult tortionate prices on the black market in Japan, you can now huy them for a fiver in Oxford Street. For those who are less mainstream, I am informed, that alternative drug addict Tamagotchis are available that you can inject with heroin to keep happy. For the truly stressed out there are even Tamagotchi crèches where, for a fee, one person can look after a number of

So this is virtual reality. Not as we have been promised, some William Gibson version of cyber-space in which our identities form and fuse according to our desires, but something much more mundane. We have the technology ... and what do we do with it? We make kooky little digital

the little beggars.

ter them. We make technology that needs us, whose whole function is to reassure us that without our tender loving care it will not survive. Then we give it to our children who are much more adept at programming it than we will ever be. While many of us cannot programme our videos, five year olds have no problem in working out how to care for their Cyber-

We used to buy children real pets in order, we would soleranly declare, to teach them about life. And death. And if we were unlucky sex. In my case, a back yard full of dead rodents objects but cheap and freely of various descriptions has available. While selling for ex- taught my children that hamsters and mice don't always live very long but you can soon get another one. Cyber-pets also die regularly hut can immediately be re-born. The mourning process can quickly be circumvented by simply hatching out another one. Though in Japan, bereavement counselling has been set up for those who appear to take the loss of a Tamagotchi very seriously indeed, children seem remarkably resilient - perhaps because they realise that the only way to kill a Tamagotchi for good is to

drop it in the bath. A recurrent fear about the digital revolution or the information age or the wired world is that we will no longer be able to tell fantasy from reality. We will inhabit an entirely mediated world in which face-to-face sorepresentations that we pretend

cial interaction will be minimised. Electronic communities will be formed by those who will while anyway.

However the technology that we grab at gleefully in the present is incredibly domesticated, chatty and casual. Mohile phones are not used for terribly important and urgent conversations but as a way of being constantly "in touch". Many mobile phone users treat their phones as a child would treat a Tamagotchi. They recognise their special ring, they lovingly recharge their hatteries, they don't leave home with-

never meet. Such a future ap-

pears to us as impoverished,

impersonal, introverted.

technology gets in the way of, or replaces, real relationships is patently untrue. It supplements them. It facilitates them. It points to a fundamental wish to connect more rather than less with other people. Tamagotchis, after all, are so popular because the desire to nurture remains strong. They are not animals and they are not bahies but they

out them.

are a responsibility; they make their owners feel needed, for a

Children I am happy to say soon tire of the whole pretence. In between attending to the constant demands of virtual pets they live on a diet of television programmes, most of which feature Rolf Harris resculing animals, or communing with photogenic vets in Animal Hospital. Such pet propaganda is finely balanced between life and death, for every car that dies of a neurological disease, some mangy dog goes on to find a new caring owner. Kids soon work out that virtual pets are one thing but they would like a real puppy for The idea that somehow their very own. The virtual pet is no substitute. Instead of a key-ring that bleeps they would prefer, as my daughter says, "something that breathes". You see, children grow up so fast these days - perhaps because they realise early on what many adults have yet to learn: that you can't, in the end. cuddle a concept, however much you try.

Can you say the unsayable when the government is your client?



TRENEMAN THINK TANKS

There is nothing that riles the new deputy director at Demos more than to ask whether the think tank has become too close to the Labour government. "Why would you think that?" demands lan Christie. Well. for starters, there is the fact that Demos director Geoff Mulgan is also an adviser to Tony Blair's policy unit. Can you have Big Ideas and be Labour luvvies at the same time? Shouldn't a think tank be out there ploughing a lonely furrow?

That is the wrong view.

During their heydey in the Seventies and Eighties, the rightwing think tanks weren't ploughing a lonely furrow. They were having dinner the whole time with Mrs Thatcher and Keith Joseph. Demos doesn't do that," says Mr Christie. "Speaking personally I've never been to a new Labour hivvie party. I wouldn't know what the inside of a Terence Conran restaurant looks like. None of us at Demos live in Islington. But there is no point in ploughing a lonely furrow. The point is to be influential. So if we are influential with the Government, we are absolutely delighted."

Demos is not alone in being so delighted. The Institute for Public Policy Research is its think tank stablemate on the centre left, and soon it is faxing me a list of people who have gone from the institute into government. There are seven names on the list but there may be more. It's the kind of thing that is hard to keep track of these days.

More surprising, perhaps, is that the Adam Smith Institute is also pleased to be influential with the new government. The institute's newsletter is brutally pragmatic. "After 18 years of working with a Conservative least, is not pretending to be ingovernment, the obvious ques-fluential with Labour, though

Smith Institute adapt to working with a Labour government?" The answer is 'smoothly'."

Director Eamonn Butler immediately starts dropping the names of Labour ministers who are attending the institute's new lecture series, "Achieving Labour's Aims". Can this be the same institute that once advocated the virtual aboliton of government? "We prefer to think of ourselves as promoting the values of a free society," says Mr Butler. "Our job is to work with the politicians of the day. If governments change, then we have to work with them: There are many things in the Labour manifesto one can agree with. So much is in the the presentation of policy. We have

to work with everybody." A few years ago such a statement would have shocked but this is the new age of bendy centrist politics and so it only brings a laugh or two. "There is a lot of cross dressing now because the political centre has moved so much to the right," says Tessa Keswick of the Centre for Policy Studies, which was set up in 1974 by Mrs Thatcher and Keith Joseph. She, at

tion is 'How will the Adam she does think there are areas civil service. "Before the election where the two might have interests that overlap.

All of this makes very interesting viewing for the likes of Lord Harris of High Cross, who ran what was the most influental think tank of them all in the Eighties, the Institute for Economic Affairs. "The IEA started with a wholly academic board and we were principally concerned with the economic systems of a free society. We then became quite acceptable," he says with masterful understatement. But he stresses that the IEA was never keen to be part of the inner circle of the day. "You've got to pursue the analysis with vigour and ignore what politicians say."

This is perhaps the toughest lesson for think tanks like Demos and IPPR. After all, both are too young to have ever been close to power before. The IPPR, in particular, does not see its links with Labour as a conflict of interest.

Director Gerry Holtham points out that its role has always been more towards solving specific problems than speculating on big ideas. He even talks about what it was like to be in opposition and compares the ential with the Conservative role of a think tank to that of the party. It's no good to this coun-

we asked ourselves, will our function have to change a lot when Labour win? Surely, we thought, they will have civil service that will do a lot of the policy analysis that we in the past have done. But these last few months bave shown us that it is not true. There is scope for our problem-oriented approach simply because the civil service is working on the current agenda and doesn't have the capacity to deal with the future."

Demos sees things differently. The think-tank was founded only in 1993 with the goal of breaking through the traditional houndaries of left and right, and Ian Christie has no desire to change this. He is full of plans: a hig new area for Demos will be the environment and future work will be much "crunchier" (i.e. aimed at providing specific solutions). In-

dependence is key. "Many of our publications could be adopted by the Tories," he says, gesturing towards the pamphlets on display along the windowsill of Demos's distinctly untrendy basement offices near Fleet Street. "We want to be influtry have a Conservative party that is as intellectually bereft as the Labour party was in the early eighties. Part of what Demos is about is to give a home to conservatives who want to re-

think what they are about." Geoff Mulgen agrees. "The Tories are very important to us. Don't get aligned. That's what stops thinking." Such a statement would carry a hit more weight, of course, if h wasn't being delivered by an adviser to Tony Blair, and many onlookers are watching to see what happens next. "If you've sold yourself as a think tank that is independent then you lose some of your legitimacy once you take the inside track," says cofounder Martin Jacques. "This is clearly a problem for Demos."

Yesterday Demos sent round a press release clarifying Geoff Mulgen's role It said be was taking leave from his post as director but that he would remain involved in Demos' work. It is a compromise but still a tough line to walk. The job of an exceptional think tank is to think the unthinkable and say the unsayable and to care about little else. After all, politicians come and go but a great thought can last forever. Or at

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this very
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Professor George Forrest

William George Grieve Forrest, ancient historian: born Glasgow 24 September 1925; Fellow, Wadham College, Oxford 1951-76 (Emeritus); Wykeham Professor of Ancient History. Oxford University 1977-92 (Emeritus); Fellow, New College, Oxford 1977-92 (Emeritus); married 1956 Margaret Hall (two daughters); died Oxford 14 October 1997.

George Forrest taught Greek history at Wadham College, Oxford from 1951, appointed by the man who became his deep friend. Maurice Bowta. In 1977 he took up the Ancient History Chair, hut will be rememhered especially as a thrilling undergraduate tutor who taught many of today's classics stars. "Why," I asked, "was he such an exciting teacher?" "He made the fragmentary come alive," said one. "He made you see connexions."

His writing ranged throughout Greek history. The Delphic oracle had been excavated by the French and interpreted as religion; no one had sifted its history and politics. Forrest's articles on that are still the basis of Delphic history. In his books, The Emergence of Greek Democracy (1966) and A Histore of Sparta (1968), he brought crucial journalistic qualities clarity, accessibility, fair-minded debunking - to Greek history. without selling scholarship short.

He preferred people to ideas, making intellectual history exciting by doing it through personalities, and arguing that Greek democracy - therefore everyone's democracy - was not designed; it came about by accident. (Some of his pupils have spent their lives arguing the opposite, but this is still the dominant view in America.) His hallmark was, "Don't believe anything anyone says. Why did they say what they did?" He was the first (with Moses Finley) to defend Athenian democracy against the dominant upper-class academic establishment, who for centuries mainly parroted Plato's attacks on it hook, line and sinker, ("Of course they were stupid: look - they killed Socrates"). Forrest kick-started a radical re-appreciation of the astonishing Athenian experiment (government effectively by referendum, lasting 200 years); an appreciation whose details are only being filled in today.

His work was powered by profound knowledge of sources. fierce democratic feeling, and inextinguishable political enjoyment. Even on his deathbed, he must have adored the spectacle of Tory politicians trying to become the caring society. The last news conversation 1 had with him was on Gadaffi's conspiracy theory about Princess Diana's death. Riddled with cancer, only on fluids (and barely on those). he roared with laughter. "If Gadaffi's right", he said, "it'll be the only plot MI5 thought up that ever worked."

George Forrest did something to his friends which made them unwitting members of an international confederacy: a band of people who loved him and his wife Margaret, the supreme beauty of her Oxford generation. (Forrest carted her off, against all competition, in his scarlet sports car Lily Christine.) You could take the pair of them into the lowest Cretan dive and they'd be instantly at home, remembered fondly by the establishment for years. "How's your friend?" they'd say. "That Georgaki. What a lively boy! What wicked eyes." (A big Cretan compliment - or it was, in the Seventies.) "Why did you like him?", I asked an English sculptor. "He was so personal," he said. "When he talked to you, there was always a hidden little barb. He was endearing and wicked. Underneath he was sentimental; on top he was a hard-



Forrest: democratic feeling

headed Scot. And there was that enormous sense of fun."

Forrest was proud of being Scots and knew the best fields lo steal frozen turnips from when hungry. His father William Forrest was a hriffiant journalist who covered the Spanish Civil War and Second World War for the News Chronicle. George himself was in the second wave of the Normandy Landings, a radio operator (in "Weather") in the RAF. Breakfast on the day was a nightmare.

"The Americans brought food we badn't seen for years." he said. "We went along the line with our plates, our eyes getting higger as the mound grew. Then the last chef dipped a ladle in his pot and poured strawberry jam over the whole bloody lot. Couldn't eat a thing!" Forrest loathed unnecessary things: ielly on bacon, water (he preferred gin), or showing off. He was a tolerant, conservative communist: from strawberry jam to pretension, he wasn't going to forbid what disgusted him. But he did, very quietly,

find it hugely funny. He loved Greece in all its forms and shadows. "Ancient Greece, modern Greece: on both he would come out with a quiet one-liner that changed

everything and made you see differently," said an Athens-based journalist. His love affair with modern Greece began at the British School at Athens in the Fifties. When the junta apneared in 1967, he was a key figure for Greek intellectuals. Several would have been imprisoned, maybe tortured, but for his tireless letter-writing. Greece in exile beat a track to the door of his chaotic Wadham room. He knew where and how to protest and could be relied on to do it, and stop British academics visiting the country, Afterwards, he was deeply loved as a philheliene who'd really come across for Greece, and got an honorary degree at Athens; but you'd mainly find him in the lowest-life tavernas, with Margaret's wit, grace, beauty and humanity giving his wickedness and crumpled off-dun jacket (he hated slickness of every kind) their perfect foil. He loved Wadham and all

central table, rampant with books and epigraphical squeezes, revealed itself out of term as a billiard table. Only he knew the secret of its mystic slope. He also knew every story to the discredit of every Wadham-made ambassador and politician. Unfailingly courteous, kind and loyal, he delighted in pomposity. Even in euremis, he had a gift like the kick of champagne for appreciating human failings. He once broke his ankle at a mountain festival on the island of Chios. No one wanted to leave; everyone, down to the donkeys, was hopelessly, as he put it, pieeyed. Eventually we persuaded a policeman and his friend to drive the three-hour roller-coaster into town. En rouse, the policeman disagreed with his friend about how to put tapes in the cassette-player. They stopped; they argued; the car was on an outside bend above a precipice in the dark. Fortest, now in real agony, but with his collector's delight in idiocy, leant over and chuckled.

whispered. As a student stuck on chamber music, I refused to countenance the idea that Verdi was the man to love. "Come round and listen, ducks," be said, and through a summer night played his entire collection of early records acquired by cigarettebarter in post-war Berlin. There was Galli-Curci singing "Caro Nome" over 1930s crackles and George pouring endless drinks that said, in triumphant silence, "See?" He'd find something funny on a limo to Hades, some hitherto unknown idiocy in Elysium. In his last conscious hours he made effort after generous effort to respond to the many people desperate to talk to him. Wherever George Forrest has gone, he'll still be giving people something new to

"Magnificent incompetence," he

think and laugh about. -- Ruth Padel



Delubac: pert, soubrettish leading lady

Photograph: Hulton Getty

Jacqueline Delubac

Jacqueline Basset (Jacquetine Delubac), actress: born Lyon 19t0; married 1935 Sacha Guitry (marriage dissolved); died Paris 14 October 1997.

"I am 50 today. Jacqueline is 25, What could be more reasonable than that I make her my better half?" So said Sacha Guitry ~ actor, dramatist, film-maker, wit . and, for 60 years, the epitome of Parisian boulevardier panache - of his marriage to Jacqueline Delubac in 1935.

Delubac was the third of

Guitry's five wives and protegees. The first was Charlotte Lyses, then came Yvonne Printemps, who might be described as the French Gertrude Lawrence. Then, in fourth position, Geneviève de Séréville, and, last, Lana Marconi . Printemps apart, the career of each of these actresses was entirely predicted on Guitry's patronage. As soon as he had divorced them, they were, professionally speaking, finished.

So it was with Jacqueline Delubac, whose filmography abruptly tails off in the Fifties after their estrangement. Unlike either de Séreville or Marconi, however, she was more than just a chic stooge. Even if one cannot abide Guitry's flamboyant urbanity and nasally whinnying delivery, it is possible to enjoy the dozen feathery dre, and, slightly less immedicomedies in which they coately, married her. starred (and all of which he Thereafter, she was his glamorous foil in a series of now clasdirected) for their pert. soubrettish leading lady, with ber near-supernatural vivacity,

sic movie comedies. In Bonne Chance (1935) she played his ber deliciously retroussé nose. gambling partner. In Faisons un ber oddly flapping lips - you rêve (Let's Dream Together, have to see ber deliver one of 1936), a seamless confection, as airy, hollow and insubstantial as Guitry's mots to know what I am talking about - and her hubble, perhaps, but an amorously chiselled one, she charming artlessness. Never at has a knack all ber own of "wita loss for words, Guitry himself evoked ber appeal thus: "You ticising" an ostensibly innocuous turn up from the provinces line of dialogue that makes one regret she never played Wilde or and you look it - just a year on, one wonders if you were born Coward, ("My darling," sbe pointedly asks a philandering in La Villette or Montmartre and, 18 months after that Guitry at the breakfast table, vou've become so indelibly will you please give me a direct answer to a direct question? Do Parisian one begins to suspect you or do you not want butter In fact, it was in Lyon, the capital, as it were. of the French provinces, that she was born -

on your toast?") And in Mon Père avait raison (My Father Was Right, 1937), a self-styled "light tragedy" which, on stage, had featured Sacha's own father, the great Lucien Guitry, she so persuasively captured the style of the original that Guitry absentmindedly remarked to his director of photography, "I love the way you lit that scene between my father and Jacqueline".

Jacqueline Delubac, in short, never put a foot wrong. Except, alas, in the circumstances of ber passing. She died, at 87, as a result of injuries sustained in a traffic accident. -- Gilbert Adair

Adil Çarçani, politician: born Fushē-Bardha, Albania 4 May 1922; Deputy Prime Minister of Albania 1965-82, Prime Minister 1982-91; married (two daughters); died Tirana.

Adil Çarçani

The political career of Adil Çarçani, Albania's last Stalinist prime minister, spanned the entire period of Communist rule in his country, which was insugurated in 1944 with the departure of the German occupying forces and ended in chaos

13 October 1997.

During all hut four of those 47 years Çarçani held high office. But despite his presence in the highest echelons of the Communist hierarchy, he was never considered one of the strongmen of the Albanian leadership. Indeed, the lack of any perceived challenge from Çarçani was one of the main reasons for his political longevity at a time when Enver Hoxha, the paramount leader, periodically purged the leadership of potential rivals.

Like Hoxha and the majority of the future Communist ruling élite, Çarçani was a Tosk, a southern Albanian. His road to the top began, as in the case of almost all of his fellow-leaders. during the Second World War, when he joined the Communist Party within a year of its foundation in 1941. He served as a divisional commissar - or political commander - in the Communist guerrilla army.

In the decade after the war Carcani's rise through the ranks was slow and unspectacular. It included stints as a deputy minister and minister of trade and industry. More importantly in a regime that was run not by the government hut by the Communist Party - by then renamed the Albanian Workers' Party (AWP) -- he joined the ranks of

the ruling Politburo in 1956. Nine years later he became deputy prime minister. His joh was primarily to ensure that the economy continued to function somebow through the ideological twists and turns of Hoxha's foreign policy which brought first a rift with the Soviet Union in 1961 and then with China in 1978 - the two Communist giants that had successively underwritten Albania's economic

development for three decades. Carcani bad next to no experience in foreign affairs or security matters when he was catapulted into the post of



Çarçani: pliant

Prime Minister at the beginning of 1982. His promotion followed the death, in mysterious circumstances, of Hoxha's closest comrade-in-arms - and apparent rival - Prime Minister Mehmet Shehu.

gsk) Chis 6.8r

AND THE PARTY OF STREET

The state of the state of the

Çarçani was a pliant associate during what turned out to be the final phase of Hoxha's dictatorship. And following Hoxha's death in 1985, there was no surprise when the top joh of AWP leader went to the head of state, Ramiz Alia, an ideologue and politician, rather than to the more technocratic administrator Çarçani.

Known to many Albanians as "Tao-Tao", the name of an incompetent but harmless bear in a popular Japanese cartoon series, Carcani battled ineffectively to arrest Albania's economic decline through the 1980s. In the late 1980s there was a period of cautious opening to the rest of the world to encourage trade; but it was too little, too late. Meanwhile, the revolutions of 1989 in much of Eastern Europe set an example that the more ruthlessly repressed Albanian population eventually followed from the end of 1990.

Following pro-democracy . student demonstrations in December that year Çarçani was given an extra job as leader of the Democratic Front, the umbrella-group of Communistcontrolled social organisations. He replaced the 70-year-old Nexhmije Hoxha - widow of the late dictator -- who had resigned on grounds of her advanced age, to be succeeded, somewhat improbably, by Çarçani, who was then already 68 years old.

But age was not the only thing that began to count against Çarçani. He remained an orthodox Communist who could not cope with the changes unleashed in Albania. One of ... his last acts as a leader was to address a rally in February 1991 at which he denounced the toppling of Hoxha's giant statue in Tirana by pro-democracy demonstrators as "an ugly act which only fascists and the wild enemies of Albania could have committed".

Electoral defeat came for the AWP in March 1992 at the hands of the Democratic Party, led by Sali Berisba, Çarçani did not feel at bome in All nia's new democratic environment. Worse was to come in 1994 when he was put on trial. along with Ramiz Alia, for abuse of power and was given a five-year suspended sentence. His poor state of bealth saved

him from actual imprisonment. During his final months Çarçani lived through dramatic changes in Albania - starting with the collapse of high-risk pyramid investment schemes and an uprising against Berisha's increasingly authoritarian administration. But by then the ailing Çarçani took no part in shaping Albania's turbulent political life. With the collapse of Communism he became little more than a relic of the past. - Gabriel Partos

BIRTHS. **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

BIRTHS

(née Raines) and Michael, a daugh-ter, Maria Ann Danijela, on 9 Oc-lober, al Lewisham Hospital, Many thanks to all who helped during pregnancy and at the birth. LAURENCE: On 14 October 1997, to Rosanna (nee Lloyd-Roberts) and Robert, a son, Hugh Ionathan Isaac, a brother for Charles, Catherine

BELL: To Kathleen (4), a sister; to Julie

PELLING: On Tuesday 14 October in Cambridge, Henry Mathison Pelling, LittD. FBA, Fellow of St John's College, Cambridge, sometime Col-lege Lecturer in History, Emeritus Reader in Recent British History, Funeral Service on Wednesday 22 Oc tober at 11.30am in the Chapel of St John's College, Cambridge.

TEMPROS: Hector, horn 3 September 1906, died Iti October 1997. Dearest Hostor, you have been much loved and will be sorely missed. THOMAS: Brian Frank Warren, died peacefully on 13 October. Much-

loved husband of Ruth and loving father to Sue, Andrew and Kate. He will ther to soe, Anorew and Nate, Fie will be greatly missed by his wife, children, grandenitdren, family and friends. Funeral service at Canford Crema-torium, Canford Lane, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, at 2,30pm on Wednesday 22 October, Flowers co. R. Davies & Son. 63 Westbury Hill. Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol.

WORMALD: Hazet, beloved daughte of Joyce and the late Arthur, on 14 October 1997, Peacefully, at the Roy-al Marsden Hospital, after an illness bravely borne. Many thanks to all who helped care for her. Cremation at Kingston on 23 October at 11.40am. Donations to Macmillan Nurses, c/o C.R.S. Funeral Service, 177 King's Road, Kingston, KT2 5JG.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J. M. Brunt and Miss H. M. A. Otley

The engagement is announced between John, son of Dr Rod Brunt, of Bath, and Mrs Patricia Mitchell, also of Bath, and Henrietta, elder daughter of Mr Tom Otley, of Marl-borough, Wiltshire, and Mrs Kate Noble, of Bath. The marriage will take place in Sydney, Australia, on 8 November 1997.

Birthdays

Mr Stephen Bishop-Kovacevich, concert pianist, 57: Mr Harry Car-penter, Journalist and boxing comentator, 72: Mr Sydney Chapman MP, 62; Mr Alexander Cooke, Honorary Consulting Physician, United Oxford Hospitals, 98; The Earl of Dalhousie, former Governor-General, Rhodesian Federation, 83; Mr Alan Garner, writer. 63: Sir Raiph Gibson, a former Lord Justice of Appeal, 75; The Right Rev Ronald Goodchild, Assistant Bishop, Exeler, 87; Mr Johnny Haynes, footballer, 63: Mrs Ann Jones, tennis player, 59; Lord Kilbracken, writer and journalist, 77: Mr Michael Lord MP, 59; Sir Cameron Mackintosh, producer of stage musicals, 51: Mr Arthur Miller, playwright, 82; Mr Beroard Taylor, former chief executive, Glaxo, 62: Sir Simon Tuckey,

High Court judge. 56.

Anniversaries Births: Nathan Field, actor and playwright, baptised 1587; John Wilkes, political reformer and jour-

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Princesa Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Logistic Corps, visits Vauxhail

Barracks, Didcot, Oxfordshire,

nalist, 1727; Claude-Henri, Comte de Saint-Simon, economist and social re-former, 1760; Elinor Glyn, novelist, 1864; Baroness Karen Blinen (Isak Dinesen), writer, 1885; Nathanael West (Nathan Wallenstein Weinstein), novelist, 1903; Jean Arthur (Gladys Georgianna Greene), actress, 1905; Rita Hayworth (Margarita Carmen Cansino), actress, 1918; Montgomery Clift, actor, 1920, Deaths: Sir Philip Sidney, poet, soldier and courtier, died of septimential 1886. Excellent caemia 1586; Frédéric-François Chopin (Fryderyk Franciszek), com-poser, 1849. On this day: under the Treaty of Dunkirk, the city was sold by Charles II to the French, 1662; Charles II escaped from Cromwell's army across the English Channel, t651; the republics of Czechoslova-kia and Yugoslavia were formally es-tablished, 1918; in the United States, Al Capone, bootlegger, was sen-tenced to 11 years in jail for income-tax evasion, 1931; the first nuclear power station in the world was opened at Calder Hall, 1956, Today is the Feast Day of St Anstrudis or Austrude, Saints Ethelbert and Ethelred, St Ignatius of Antioch, St John the Dwarf, St Nothelm, St Rule, St Scraphino and The Ursuline Martyrs of Valenciennes.

Synagogue services Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 5.49pm.

United Synagogues: 0181-343 8989. Federa trated Synagoges 0131-302 2263. Fusion of Liberal and Progressive Synagogess 0171-390 1663. Reform Synagogess of Great Britain: 0181-349 4751. Spanish and Partnepase Jews Congregation: 0171-289 2573. New London Synagoges (Masorti): 0171-328 1026.

Changing of the Guard The Honsehold Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, Itani.

LAW REPORT: 17 OCTOBER 1997

The transfer of special waste was not by a 'carrier'

Where a company transferred special waste from the producer's premises to its own site for disposal, it was not a "carrier" within the terms of the Control of Pollution (Special Waste) Regulations 1980 since it was not transferring the waste to another person.

Shanks & McEwan (Southern Waste Services) Ltd v Environment Agency: (Lord Justice Auld and Mr Justice Brian Smedley) 4 October 1997.

The Divisional Court allowed the appeal by way of case stated of Sbanks & McEwan (Southern Waste Services Ltd) against their conviction by justices of two offences of unlawful failure as carriers of special waste to complete their part of a consignment note as required by regulation 4(5) of the Control of Pollution (Special Waste) Regulations 1980, contrary to regulation 16; and unlawful failure as such carriers to take reasonable measures to prevent the contravention by another of section section 34(1)(a) of the Act. David Lamming (Barker Gotelee, Inswich) for the appellants; Martin Collier (Legal Services Manager, Environment Agency, Peterborough) for the respondent

you might be a foreigner."

into a family which had

amassed a fortune from the

manufacture of artificial silk.

From her earliest youth, how-

ever, her resolve was to become

an actress; and, by the mid-Thir-

ties, she had gravitated to Paris.

where she appeared in a revue.

impersonating, quite unimag-

inably, Josephine Baker. Pos-

sibly realising that there was no

future in so patent a misdirec-

tion of her talents, she arranged

to have herself introduced to

Guitry, who immediately cast

ber in a new play. Villa à ven-

Mr Justice Brian Smedley said that the appellants had been engaged by United Overseas Ltd ("UOL") to collect from their premises and to dispose of certain flammable waste material which, it was not disputed, fell within the definition of "special waste" in the 1980 Regulations.

IJOL had not told the appellants that the waste was special waste, nor had they had epared a consignment note for the benefit of the carrier and the local regulatory authority as required for special waste by regulation 4(1). The appellants' driver took

the waste to one of the appellants' own disposal sites, which was not one to which special waste was normally delivered. However, a chemist employed by the appellants found that the waste was 33 of the Environmental Pro- special waste and diverted it to been done by the the Special April as carriers of the waste

tection Act 1990, contrary to a properly licensed site. He no- Waste Regulations 1996 which did not extend to the pretified the regulatory authority, and UOL later pleaded guilty to having failed to prepare the requisite consignment note, and to an offence contrary to section 34(1)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, of having failed, as producer of the waste, to take reasonable measures to prevent the contravention another of section 33 of the

> The appellants argued that although they were contracted to transfer the waste for disposal they were not the carriers of the waste. The phrase "the carrier" was defined in regulation 4(5) as "any person who transfers special waste from the premises at which it is produced to another person for disposal", and the appellants were transferring the waste not to another person but to their own disposal site.

They submitted that if there was a lacuna in the 1980 Regulations it was for Parliament or the Secretary of State, not the court, to amend them and fill the gap. That bad in fact

bad replaced the 1980 Regulations from 1 September 1996. Under those regulations the carrier was defined as a "person who collects the waste . . . and transports it to another place".

correct, and the justices had, accordingly, erred in convicting the appellants of the first of-

Section 34 of the 1990 Act and the Code of Practice issued thereunder in 1991 applied to a variety of people concerned in various ways and stages with controlled waste. The duty imposed by section 34(1)(a) on. inter alia, the carrier, was to "take all such measures applicable to him in that capacicircumstances to prevent any contravention by other person of section 33". Section 33 prohibited, inter of unlicensed disposal of

The appellants argued that the chain of responsibility for weste was forward looking, and that the duty on

vention of a contravention of section 33 by a person from whom they bad received the waste, but to exclude from that duty a contravention by any persons who had had earlier control of or contact Those submissions were with the waste was a wholly artificial way to interpret the section. It was also argued that if no actual offence had heen committed under section 33, then there could be no breach of section 34, but

the section could not be interpreted in that way. However, in the present case, no offence under section 33 had actually been committed because the appellants' chemisi had been vigilani and had diverted the waste to ty as are reasonable in the a licensed site. In those curcumstances one had to ask in what respect it was alleged that the appellants had unlawfully failed to take all reasonable measures to prevent any contravention by any other person of section 33. A conviction under section: 34(1)(a) could not therefore be

- Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

23/BUSINESS

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR. JEREMY WARNER NEWS DESK: 0171-293 2636 FAX: 0171-293 2098 E-MAIL: IndyBusiness@ Independent.co.uk FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

BSkyB chief Chisholm makes £6.8m in a year

Sam Chisholm, the outgoing head of BSkyB, almost doubled his remuneration last year, taking home a total of £6.8m. As Cathy Newmon reports, that makes him one of the highest paid executives of a UK quoted company.

Mr Chisholm, who is to step down at the end of the year due to poor health, made £5m by exercising 1.8 million phantom share options. He also received a bonus of £1.3m to add to his basic pay of £302,575.

Over the past two years, the ehullient BSkyB boss bas carned a total of £10.7m. The money paid to Mr Chisholm is set to cause controversy with shareholders, particularly as the company's share price has underperformed in the last few months.

Other high pay awards in the media industry that have upset investors include WPP's chief executive, Martin Sorrell, who made £2,8m last year.

A BSkyB spokesman defended Mr Chisholm's pay package, saying it was closely linked to the performance of the company as 75 per cent of his salary last year derived from phantom share options.

It also emerged yesterday that BSkyB was poised to sign a pay-per-view film deal with Warner Brothers, the Hollywood studio which has just agreed terms with On Demand Management, a consortium of cable companies.

BSkyB is expected to clinch

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end of the month, enabling its money from cable television subscribers to pay to view specific films. The satellite broadcaster had originally hoped to as BSkyB. As a result, the comtie up an exclusive deal with Warner, but it now looks set to share the film rights with the cable companies.

A BSkyB spokesman said: "BSkyB has signed pay-perview deals with a significant number of studios, the majority of them for exclusive pay-perriew film rights."

BSkyB is certain to have negotiated an exclusive agreement with Twentieth Century Fox, which is owned by News Corporation. Rupert Murdoch's News Corp has a 40 per cent stake in BSkyB.

Meanwhile, cable industry sources said that On Demandthe group representing Telewest Communications, NTL, General Cable and Diamond Cable Communications - was close to agreement with two other studios, Sony, and Paramount.

In return for Hollywood film rights, the cable companies will be obliged to carry various "vanity channels" owned by the studios, which will take up valuable capacity on the analogue cable network.

As part of the Warner deal, for example, cable operators will have to offer subscribers CNN, owned by Warner, free of charge, BSkyB will not be faced with the same problem, as satellite subscribers who have a dish already get CNN for free.

The studios are likely to receive roughly half of the revenues from film pay-per-view.

Separately, General Cable announced yesterday that it was to take a £35m charge to reorganise the husiness and re-crete agreement with the BBC a deal with Warner and other focus on telephony. The com-Hollywood studios before the pany said it could not make

US long bond

because of the conditions imposed by programmers such pany will in future only sell ca-ble television packages to users of its telephone services.

David Miller, finance director of General, said: "We're chasing our tails trying to sell cable television as an end in itself. Although today we sell TV and telephone, tomorrow we will sell access through which you can buy pay-TV, near video-ondemand and so on.

Around 15 per cent of General's subscribers take cahle television without the telephone service. As a result, Mr Miller said he expected the company's pay-TV penetration to fall.

Construction of the cable network will be frozen, General said, which would lead to around 50 redundancies out of a workforce of 1,500. Investment in analogue equipment will also cease, but the company expects to launch its digital TV service towards the end of next year.

In addition, the company is to raise its prices. New customers will have to pay £45 for basic and premium services. Existing subscribers will continue to be charged £38 a month for premium channels.

In a similar move to curb losses Telewest, the second largest UK cable company, cut 1,400 jobs last August and said it would delay the completion of its network for two years.

Mr Miller said General had notified BSkyB that it would be dropping Sky News. The service is to be replaced by the BBC's new 24-hour channel, although · Mr Miller added that no con-



Outlook, page 25 Phantom share options pay off for Sam Chisholm, who almost doubled his remuneration last year

Former Mercury chief bids for Racal Telecom

Duncan Lewis, the former head of the Mercury phones company and senior Change(%) 52 wt high 52 wt low Yield(%) Granada executive, is planning a return to the industry by launching bid to buy Racal's telecommunications Chris Godsmark, business

correspondent, reports on the future of one of the UK's largest telecoms networks.

Racal in effect raised a for-sale sign over its telecommunications business this summer when it appointed Merrill Lynch, the US investment bank, to hunt for potential partners or buyers. At the same time Goldman Sachs was called in to carry out a similar review of Racal's data products division.

The deadline for bidders to enter the ring expired on Friday and Mr Lewis is understood to have put in a proposal, backed by Schroder Ventures, the venture capital arm of the merchant banking group.

Mr Lewis, who resigned as chief executive of Granada's media business last year, was not available for comment yester- £70m earnings. In terms of in the future.

stood to be a management buy- than twice the size of Energis, in, where he would join with other former colleagues to huy Racal Telecom nutright.

If the Lewis hid is successful it would be a high profile comeback for the executive, who left Granada after a simmering row with Charles Allen, the group's chief executive and Gerry Robinson, chairman. Since his departure Mr Lewis bas been working on business projects and, apparently, enjoying a ca-

There had been speculation that he would return to Cable & Wireless to run its combined telephones and cable TV empire, C&W Communications. Instead Dick Brown, C&W's chief executive, chose another Granada executive, Graham Wallace for the top job. .

Before joining Granada Mr Lewis, a former BT manager, moved to Cable & Wireless where he rose to become chief executive of Mercury, now part of C&W Communications. During his nine month reign at Mercury he slashed costs there , cutting some 2,000 jobs.

The Lewis bid is thought to offer several hundred million pounds for Racal Telecom, which had sales of £260m last year and, with profits of £43m, accounted for most of Racal's

day. However, his plan is under- sales, Racal Telecom is more the telecoms group which National Grid is to float this year with an estimated price tag of

around £1bn. It was Racal's 1995 deal to huy British Raif's telecommunications operation, BRT, which catapulted Racal Telecom into a leading player in the market. Apart from supplying Railtrack and train operating companies with phone services, it also has extensive private networks and claims to be the biggest contractor to the Government.

Racal vesterday confirmed that the deadline for bids had closed, but insisted a sale was just not the only route to boosting the telecom's businesses prospects. "We're looking at all the options. Don't assume that there will be an outright sale. Don't assume anything," a spokesman said.

Sir Ernest Harrison, Racal's long-standing chief executive, launched the Merrill Lynch review after a series of damaging profits warnings at Racal which have dented his reputation as the leading defender of sharebolder value.

At the time he indicated Racal Telecom was coming under increasing competitive pressure from rival telecoms groups which would depress its profits

Break-up looms as white knights desert Redland

The chances of a white knight bid for Redland, the building materials company under siege from French group Lafarge, are looking "closely." more remote after some of the industry's biggest players indicated yesterday that they were not interested in buying the whole company. Though it is early days, Redland's best defence

Investors in Redland expecting a white knight to counter Lafarge's £1.7bn hostile offer, made on Monday, for the roofing and aggregates company, may be disappointed after comments yesterday from some beavyweight players in the building industry.

may be to break itself

up, writes Sameena Ahmad.

A source at Tarmac, the UK's largest aggregates com-pany, said yesterday that it was "pretty unlikely" that the company would bid for any of Redland. "It is hard to see us as a contender," said the source.

Analysts said that Tarmac would probably have to issue paper to buy Rediand's UK and US aggregates business, valued at around £1bn. The company has high net debt and is still working through last year's asset swap with Wimpey.

RMC said yesterday that it had an "open mind" about Redland's aggregates business and was watching the situation

However a source at the company indicated that RBB, Redland's roofing husiness was not a consideration: "I doubt if we will extend in that direction. We already have our hands

Pioneer, the Australian building materials group also appears to have ruled out a full bid. Though the group has a roofing business in Australia and the USA and said that its strong balance sheet could fund expansion. Pioneer yesterday said that it did not consider roofing as its core business and that the German shareholding in RBB, 43.5 per cent owned by Braas, could be a problem.

That is another element in the attractiveness or unattractiveness of Redland," said an in-

Hanson is also believed to have ruled itself out as a full bidder. Blue Circle, the cement company whose name has also cropped up as a potential bidder is thought to feel that buying Redland, its customer. would alienate other cement users like Tarmac. Lafarge has two weeks from Monday to post its offer document.

BT set to talk to MCI bid rivals

British Telecom looks set to start talks on the future of MCI, its US partner, with the two rival bidders seeking to buy the company.

Chris Godsmark, Business Correspondent, reports on BT's change of tactics after GTE confirmed a \$28bn all cash takeover approach for MCl.

BT is expected to ask MCI as early as today to lift a gagging clause in their merger agreement which prevents the two companies from discussing a link-up with rival suitors. A letter drafted by BT's advisers will ask MCI to drop the clause, a step which requires the formal agreement of the two compa-

The latest twist came after GTE, one of the largest US telephones companies, threw its hat into the takeover ring with a \$40 a share approach for MCI, the long distance giant. The GTE offer is some \$2bn lower than the \$30bn unsolicited for MCI launched out of the blue earlier this month by WorldCom. However, GTE's bid is in cash, whereas WorldCom is proposing to pay MCI investors entirely in shares.

BT declined to comment on its decision to lift the merger clause, However, the move will he seen by analysts as a clear sign that the UK group has admitted defeat in its attempt to huy MCI, but would be keen to join a three-way alliance of some sort with GTE.

MCI's board is expected to meet today to discuss the rival offers from WorldCom and GTE. Since the unsolicited approach by WorldCom on 1 October BT has insisted it cannot enter into discussions until MCI's board decided whether to recommend the bid to its shareholders.

Like WorldCom, GTE also made clear yesterday that it was keen to maintain the partner ship with BT, including the Concert joint venture in the in ternational husiness commun ications market. In a conference call to US analysts last nigh Chuck Lee, GTE's chairman said the company was "prepared to enter discussions" with both BT and MCI and nothing would he ruled out.

Analysts emphasised tha BT could determine MCI's fu ture if it joined in discussions Mark Lambert from Merril Lynch said: "From having been marginalised, BT are back in pivotal role, GTE want BT support because it would be blow to WorldCom's bopes They've certainly got a bette hand than they did yesterday.

BT shares soared 24.5p t-471.5p as dealers digested th prospect of the company recei ving \$5.6bn in cash for its 20 pe cent stake in MCI if the GIT bid went through.

But analysts cautione against speculation that B' would mount a multi-billin pound share buy-back operatio with the money. Jim Ross, fror stockbrokers Hoare Goveti said BT may want to buy a stak in a merged GTE-MCI. "Th big missing piece in the jigsav is how BT could get itself in volved in a GTE-MCI dea For shareholders that's the cru cial question," he said.

Stock Exchange tramples on 'snake in the grass' deals

The Stock Exchange made final adjustments to its orderdriven share trading system yesterday in preparation for Monday's launch. Tom Stevenson, financial editor, assesses the changes introduced after the mixed success of the system's dress rehearsals.

The Stock Exchange took a decisive step yesterday to ensure there is an orderly market when order-driven trading transforms share dealing in the City on

Monday. It said it would change the rules in a bid to stamp out so-called "snake in the grass" traders who have caused havoc in test runs of the new automated system by deliberately inputting orders at ridiculous prices.

A snake in the grass trade works by inputting a buy order for a stock at a very low price in the hope that a rival firm will make an error and accidentally input a matching sell order. The computer automatically deals when buy and sell orders match, regardless of how close to the prevailing market price the orders are.

threat, the Stock Exchange said yes- orders by, for example, slipping in an

terday it would "treat as a potential reg- extra "O" far outweighed those occasions ulatory abuse" the entry of an order that was more than 20 per cent away from the current market price unless it was entered with the prior approval of the Exchange.

Gavin Casey, the Exchange's chief executive, also moved to ease concerns that keyboard errors could lead to firms being exposed to much larger transactions than they expected. Starting on Monday, the order book will only accept orders for ten times the normal market size for any given share.

Mr Casey said the potential risk to In an attempt to counter that member firms of putting in enormous

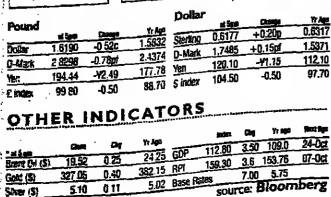
when a firm would want to input a very large order. He added that the limit was only an interim measure and said it would be kept under review.

The Exchange also warned yesterday of the dangers posed to firms of using "ot best" trades where orders are placed with no restriction on the execution price that would be acceptable. It said firms should use "limit orders" to avoid having a trade executed at a disadvantageous price, even if it steered clear of a snake in the grass.

Yesterday's adjustments marked the final changes to the Stock Exchange's SETS order-driven trading puter system, hangs in the balance.

system, which from next week will of fer an alternative to the quote-driver telephone-based system in force since Big Bang in 1986 did away with floo trading. Initially its will only apply to the FTSE 100 index of leading stocks but there are plans to roll it out to the next 250 shares as soon as possible.

All eyes will focus on the success o the automated trading project, which has tied 200 firms directly into the Stock Exchange and represents the higges change to the way shares are traded in 11 years. The credibility of the Stocl Exchange, tarnished by previous failures such as the ill-fated Taurus com-



WH Smith snubs Waterstone and announces its own break-up plan

Troubled retailer WH Smith has dealt a double blow to Tim Waterstone's restructuring proposals by rejecting his revised plans and announcing its own blueprint for the future. This includes demerging the Waterstone's bookselling business, selling Virgin-Our Price and revitalising the core high street chain. Nigel Cope, City Correspondent reports on an apparent change of heart.

WH Smith's plans for a break-up come just two months after Jeremy Hardie, the WH Smith chairman, ruled out such a course of action. At the time of the company's full year results in August be said: "We bave no plans for a break-up ... What you don't do is thrash about changing things."

there had been any volte face, saying that plans to reshape the Smiths portfolio had been under consideration for several months. "This is not the kind of thing you do on the boof. It has been going on for a considerable period of time." He admitted that Mr Waterstone's interventioo had acted as "a spur and a catalyst" that had pushed the board to act.

Mr Hardie said the Smith board had been unanimous in its rejection of Mr Waterstone's proposals, saying they were not in the best interest of shareholders. Mr Waterstone said he was "genuinely saddened" by his second rejection in a fortnight and that he had no plans to put his proposal to shareholders. However, he added that if shareholders thought after time that they supported his "vision" for WH Smith he would be willing to discuss his proposal again with the board.

WH Smith share's rose 3.5p to 405.5p on the news, though the proposal met with a mixed reception from analysts. Nick Bubb

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However, he denied yesterday that of Societe Generale Strauss Tumbull said: "It looks likes Tim Waterstooe is dead in the water. It was always obvious that Smith's would steal his best ideas and put them into practice themselves." However, another analyst described Smith's plans as "woolly" and "unfocused."

The key parts of the strategy are in demerge the Waterstone's business into a separate quoted company. This should be completed by next Spring with analysts putting a value of around £300m on the

The music operation including the Virgin-Our Price business and the Wall division in the US will be sold. Analysts said Vîrgin-Our Price could be worth around £150m with Virgin having options to buy it.

Smiths will then concentrate oo three business, its core WH Smith chain which accounts for 30 per cent of sales and uperatiog profits and which it hopes to revitalise; the cash-generative news distribution business, and the international and UK



Looking to the future: WH Smith's finance director Beverley Hodson (left) and group chief executive Richard Handover at the branch in Holborn, London, yesterday

IN BRIEF

£5m pay-off at BZW boosts support for strike at Barclays

Support for today's 24-hour strike at Barclays Bank has grown dramatically since news of a rumoured £5m pay-off to Bill Harrison, departing chief executive of BZW, union leaders claimed yesterday. Thousands of staff at the bank are due to stage the stuppage in protest at a performance-related pay scheme which they argue will freeze the salaries of 25,000 employees. Union officials warned that the walkout - to be followed by another day-long stoppage on Monday - would close branches all over the country.

Officers of both the Banking Insurance and Finance Union and Barclays staff union UNiFI, which together claim a membership of 40,000, believe that some employees may choose to go sick instead of being seen to join the strike. This was a tactic employed by hundreds of cabin crew in a recent strike at British Airways, Management last night declared its confidence that most of its 2,000 hranches would remain open, although the bank conceded that there would be an impact in some areas.

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BTR pays \$585m for US firm

BTR has made its first hig acquisition since announcing its intention to cooceotrate oo eogineering and embark on the wholesale disposal of the rest of its businesses. It is paying \$585m (£361m) for Exide Electronics, a US supplier of uninterruptible power supply systems. Ian Strachan, chief executive of BTR said: "This acquisition of Exide Electronics represents a major step forward in our strategy to focus on higher-growth engineering businesses where we enjoy leadership positions. The deal should enhance earnings next year." However, the shares shed another 2p to 234.5p.

Ofgas warns of MMC inquiry

Household gas suppliers were threatened with a Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation yesterday by the industry regulatur, Clare Spottiswoode, if they failed to sign up to a tough new code to curb dubious doorstep sales tactics. The plans by Ofgas, the gas watchdog, would for the first time put a legal obligation on gas suppliers in the emerging competitive market to train staff property and keep records of sales approaches to customers. The changes to companies' operating licences need support from 90 per cent of the industry, though British Gas last night signalled its support. Ms Spottiswoode said if 90 per cent of suppliers did not sign up, she would call in the MMC. "If it doesn't work we will undoubtedly take this to the MMC." The legal marketing curbs follow repeated concerns about doorstep sales practices in trial competition areas in the South of England.

Medeva shares rebound

Shares in Medeva recovered some of their recent losses yesterday after the drug company announced its drug fur hepatitis works better than the competition. The shares, which have slumped from 330p since April on fears that its leading product for hyperactivity might be hit by competition, rose 9 per cent to 245.5p. On a trial of 90 patients. Hepagene achieved a 72 per cent success rate compared with 51 per cent for the best existing drug Engerix-B. Analysts said sales could reach £150m.

Rise in traffic at P&O

Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation said passenger volumes on its ferries rose by 12 per cent in the third quarter to 4.15 million, while freight traffic was up 18 per cent at 408,620 vehicles. Tourist vehicle traffic rose to 554,068 in the quarter from 452,183 a year earlier. P&O said ferry traffic in the quarter was "strong across all routes" and added that in the year to date, passenger traffic was up by 9 per cent, tourist vehicle by 13 per cent and freight traffic was up by 20 per cent.

McGraw-Hill to buy Micropal 4,

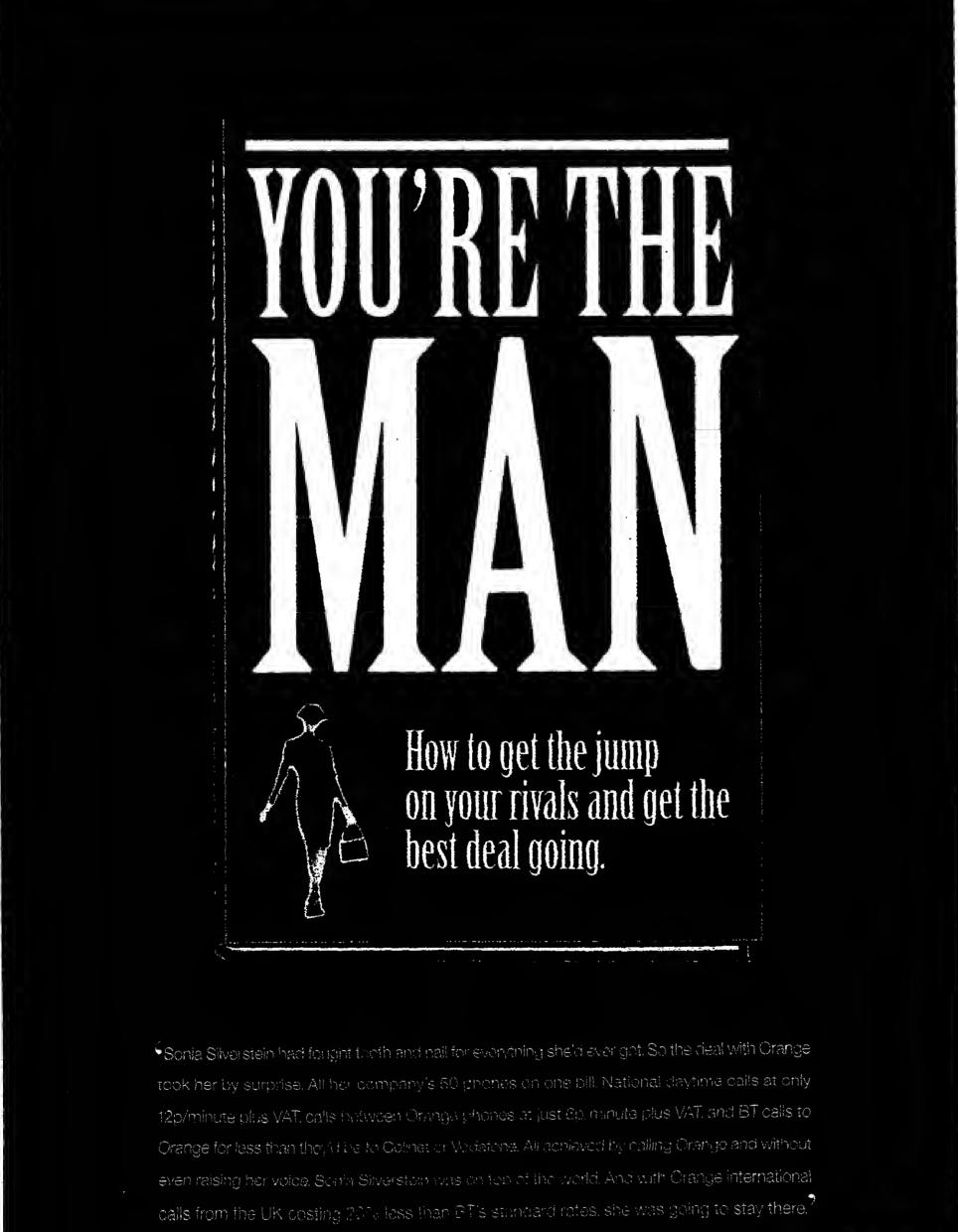
The McGraw-Hill Companies, the financial services and publishing group, is to buy Micropal, the leading provider of mutual funds data. Micropal will be merged into Standard & Poor, the financial services arm of McGraw-Hill known for its credit rating services. The terms of the deal were not disclosed. Standard & Poor will combine Micropal's software and database expertise with its own analytical skills and distribution networks to provide "a one stop shop global solution," according to Mark Adorian, Micropal's managing director. No joh losses are imminent at Micropal-

Chilean spirits tax in dispute

The EU Commission said it would ask the World Trade Organisation to rule whether Chilean tax on spirits violates world trade rules. Imported whisky faces 70 per cent tax, vodka and other spirits 30 per cent, while the local Pisco spirit is only liable to 25 per ceot tax, the Commission said. The EU recently won a similar dispute on discriminatory spirits tax rates in Japan and has also filed a complaint against Korea.

Pru sales grow world-wide

Prudential Corporation said sales from its businesses around the world continued to grow in the first nine months of 1997, with sales of single premium life, pension and investment products rising 14 per cent to £5.7bn and sales of regular premiums increasing 8 per cent to £406m. Excluding the impact of a strong pound, single premium sales rose 18 per cent and regular premiums 11 per cent.



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OUTLOOK ON CBI FEARS OF ANTI-CARTEL LAWS. THE AMERICAN DREAM, AND SAM CHISHOLM'S PAY **PACKAGE**

Nothing to fear from the competition bill

federation of British Industry, has a recurring nightmare. He is woken at five in the morning by the sound of a sledgehammer coming through the front door. He goes downstairs in his pyjamas to discover a team of official-looking types rifling through his papers. When he protests, he is warned that failure to answer their questions may result in criminal prosecution. They prepare to leave, clutching several boxes marked Monthly Industrial Trends Survey. As they walk out, taking care to put the door back on its hinges, their leader, a surly fellow called Bridgeman, turns and says the CBI has been abusing its dominant position in the supply of fatuous economic reports for far too long. Later that day it is fined 10 per cent of its turnover.

The CBI does not much care for the Government's new Competition Bill, which was published yesterday and gets its second reading in the House at the end of the month. It thinks the powers it contains are draconian, parts of the legislation unenforceable and the costs of compliance totally unreasonable.

This is quite a turnaround. It was only a few months ago that the organisation welcomed with open arms the Government's determination to sweep away the anachronistic and ineffectual mechanism of the Restrictive Trade Practices Act and put UK competition law on a modern footing based on Articles 85 and 86 of the Treaty of Rome.

As the fine print of the Bill has emerged, however, the business community has hecome more and more frantic. A horri-

Adair Turner, director-general of the Con- ble vista is conjured up of companies be- made more, not less, prescriptive in the ing subjected to the double jeopardy of regulation by London as well as Brussels, of consumer organisations pursuing businesses relentlessly through the courts, and of over-zealous antitrust officials plundering their way across the industrial landscape in a never-ending orgy of dawn raids.

Reform competition law by all means, hut do we have to be so heavy handed? You bet, By coincidence, on the very day the Bill was published, the Restrictive Practices Court finally got around to making orders against 13 companies operating a price-fixing cartel in ready mixed concrete nine years after the case commenced.

In its tirade against the Bill, the CBI has largely missed the point that the legislation is actually about deterrence, not punishment. The form-filling nature of the existing legislation has made it simple for any executive with half a brain and a smart lawyer to draft a way around its provisions and the OFT's lack of teeth has meant that cartels only got their comcuppance when the boys from Brussels came calling.

The new legislation has swiftness of action and stiffness of penalty on its side which should be enough to deter all but the most dedicated cartels. Moreover, husinesses themselves will be the beneficiaries as much as consumers, since cartels do not discriminate between categories of victim.

The Bill, as it was first drafted, may not have been perfect in all respects and there will be further amendments as it passes through its parliamentary stages. But the CBI's argument that the Bill should be

contentious area of abuse of dominant position, for example, sits oddly with its general philosophy on regulation.

The DTI may yet find that its latest estimates of compliance costs are still tno low, but the benefits which should flow from more effectively regulated markets should far outweigh these concerns. Well run businesses should have nothing to fear from the legislation. The CBI ought to be applauding, not sniping from the bills.

How to export the American way

The London media scene will soon be welcoming a new addition to its ranks -Robert Forbes, one of the four Forbes brothers who own and run the Forbes magazine publishing empire. He's bere to spearhead the launch of a new international edition of Farbes, one of the US's top business publications. Normally such a move wouldn't warrant much more than a footnote in the national press, but because of what Forbes stands for, it perhaps bas a wider significance.

Over the years, Forbes has prospered on an unrelenting diet of optimism and probusiness, pro-free market idealism. Editorially it doesn't pull its punches, but it also represents the American dream and the American model as perhaps no other business publication quite does - the belief that individuals should be allowed to prosper

from their own enterprise, deregulation and generally rolling back the frontiers of the state. Above all it is a publication about entrepreneurs and businessmen for entreneurs and businessmen.

For Forbes to go international, then, is somehow symbolic of the triumph of the American model. Everyone now believes in free enterprise, free capital markets, flexible labour practices, sound public finances and an independently determined monetary policy. Furthermore, from Paris to Timbucktu, we all look jealously across at the success of the American enterprise economy, particularly at the cutting edges of technology. Where are the European versions of Bill Gates, Steve Jobs and Andy Grove? Where on the Continent doesprivate sector job creation compare with the US?

Britain took to the chase a hit before the others but there is little doubt that the businessman's view of the world, which the US economy so much epitomises, is emerging triumphant from the chaos of the post war years just about everywhere. America's most successful export these days is not the automobile or the PC, but its own free market economic model. In its own small way, Forbes is aiming to ride the wave.

Sam Chisholm is unique indeed

Such are the joys of monopoly. With news of the £6.8m Sam Chisholm drew last year in salary, bonuses and phantom share op-

tions, the American-style executive remuneration package seems to have arrived in Britain with a vengeance. Quite n lot of people earn this sort of money in the City, and the number of entrepreneurs taking that size of wonga out of their companies each year probably runs to the thousands these days. But for a bumble chief executive running somebody else's company, this is something of a record. For someone running a business which is to all intents and purposes a monopoly, albeit a newly created one, it is completely unheard of.

So why is it that no one is going to begrudge too much Mr Chisholm his barrow load of dosh? In part it is because BSkyB is so much his own entrepreneurial creation. It may have been Rupert Murdoch who provided the original idea, the risk capital, the vision to get the enterprise off the ground and then drive through the all important merger with British Satellite Broadcasting, but it was Mr Chisholm who made it happen and turned the company into the success it is today.

Furthermore, to the extent that BSkyB has a virtual monopoly of subscription television in Britain, this is only so because it got there first and then, as all clever organisations do, defended its position vigorously with regulators and in the market. This was a franchise won, not delivered on a plate. In other words, Mr Chisholm is a special case. Some remuneration committees will no doubt try to use Mr Chisholm's earnings as a new benchmark for executive pay. They should expect the wrath of their shareholders if they do.

Albert Fisher chairman to step down from executive job

Stephen Walls is stepping down from his executive duties at Albert Fisher, the underperforming food group. And, with the company poised to sell its seafood operation and return cash to shareholders, he could soon leave the company altogether. Nigel Cope reports.

Mr Walls, who has been chair- company to seek a replace- relations between Mr Engman of Albert Fisher since 1992, said yesterday he would reduce his role to a non-executive position once the disposal of its seafood operation and capital re-structuring were complete.

It has been expected that his role would change since Neil England joined as chief executive last November, But though Albert Fisher said it expected Mr Walls to stay on for some time, it is understood that there are moves within the

ment as non-executive chair-

Mr Walls earned £400,000 in the year ended 1996 but said yesterday that his pay would be "drastically reduced" as he expected to spend only four or five days a month with the company.

The company dismissed suggestions that it was looking for another chairman as "completely unfounded."

It also denied that there

had been any deterioration of

land and Mr Walls. "You can tell if people don't get on. They get on fine,"

It is understood that Albert Fisher received around 40 expressions of interest in its seafood operation which it put up for sale in August after the rehuttal of a hid approach from Chiquita Brands of

It has now reduced the number of interested parties to a shortlist and a deal is expected to be announced in profits before exceptional

December, Analysts say the items of £40m for the past business is worth around

The capital re-construction is expected to follow shortly with analysts saying the company could seek authority to buy back up to 20 per cent of its sbares. This could be worth around

£60m. Mr Walls said the Chiquita hid approach and adviser fees had cost £1.9m.

He was speaking as Albert Fisher reported flat pre-tax

Mr Walls said the strength of sterling had cost the group £3m in lost profits. Net margins improved from 2.9 per cent in 1996 to 3.7 per cent, The dividend was unchanged

Neil England said that Albert Fisher had been stockpiling prawns to offset the possible impact of a new EU ruling on imports.

He said the EU had banned imports of prawns

from India and Bangladesh for reasons of hygiene which bad caused prices to rise elsewhere. He said he was boping for a lifting of the ban but warned that a continuation of the dispute could affect the group's seafood operations if supplies were not built up.

Mr England also warned that food distributors should start increasing their prices for premium fresh produce to offset the possible negative ef-. fects of El Nino, the unusual weather system over the Pacific.



Stephen Walls: Could leave the company altogether

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64-bit 4Mb Graphics

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T&N backs £1.5bn bid 🌧 from Federal Mogul

T&N. the UK car parts maker. vesterday backed a takeover bid from Federal Mogul after the US rival upped its cash offer from £1.25hn to £1.5bn.

However, several of T&N's big institutional shareholders have yet to accept the revised offer which is equivalent to 260p for each T&N share. Onc large institutional shareholder said vesterday: "We don't feel this reflects the true value within T&N and we are reserving judgement on accepting the

Another said: "There is a long way to go before the deal finally goes through. We are comfortable with the situation but of course we would be happier with a higher offer."

Sir Colin Hope, T&N's chairman said vesterday that he had held talks with many of the other car parts groups including US group Dana Corporation but no other offer had been forthcoming. However analysts helieve T&N is likely to con-

Household electricity

bills are set to fall by 9

per cent over the next

regime unveiled

yesterday by the

industry regulator,

Professor Stephen

package which has

already stirred up

Littlechild.

controversy.

two years in a new price

Chris Godsmark, business

correspondent, reports a

The electricity watchdog. Offer.

said the final price formula for

the 12 regional electricity com-

panies (RECs) and two Scottish



Takeover talks: T&N chairman Sir Colin Hope (left) with Dick Snell, chairman and Photograph: Jason Bye chief executive of Federal Mogul, yesterday

rivals in an attempt to flush out a higher bid.

The Federal Mogul bid will also face an investigation from the US and European competition authorities due to the combined group's dominance in engine bearings. Dick Snell, chairman of Federal Mogul conceded the group would have to sell some of its US engine interests hut said Federal Mogul had no intention of disposing tinue to hold talks with other of any other husinesses.

£270, between 1998 and 2000.

The reductions, which vary be-

tween the different companies.

would come in two stages, with

a 6 per cent drop from next

April followed by a further 3 per

stuck by a plan to place an over-

all cap on customer bills for the

first time. The current price

regime allows the RECs to

pass fluctuations in their gen-

erating hills on to consumers.

an 8 per cent fall in the cost of

wholesale power bought by the

RECs, of which 4.5 per cent

would come when high-priced

long-term coal contracts expire

that he would allow the RECV

The regulator also confirmed

next April.

power groups would knock £24 to pass £500m through to hills.

off an average domestic bill of a figure included in the overall

The price controls envisage

Professor Littlechild also

cent the following year.

Sir Colin will stay with the group in a new role as international adviser. In addition he is likely to receive a pay off of around £320,000, equivalent to his salary last year. Sir Colm and T&N's directors stand to make a profit of nearly £3m on

share options. Federal Mogul plans to fund the deal, which will more than double its size, by issuing around SSMm of new equity according to analysts.

price control, to cover the cost

of introducing domestic com-

petition next year. Professor

Littlechild has already watered

down his original price propers-

als after admitting they would

have slashed profit margins so

far that few outside companies

would want to take part in the

competitive market. A previous

formula suggested a 12 per cent

cut in newer bills in just one year.

had threatened to take the issue

to the Monopolies and Mergers

Commission, were studying the

final package last night. Some

had complained the previous

plans would would plunge their

supply businesses, the adminis-

trative and hilling arms which ac-

count for around 7 per cent of

customer bills, into heavy losses.

The regulator admitted that

The RECs, some of which

equivalent to a drop of £32.

Federal Mogul is likely to make substantial redundancies in the US and Europe but hopes to retain a large proportion of T&N's senior management. It expects to reap \$100m of cost savings from the deal.

The deal marks the latest stage in the consolidation of the worldwide car parts industry in response to manufacturer's demands to cut costs by using fewer suppliers.

lesses if they failed in cut their

own, but said he did not believe

they had a case for the MMC.

My mam aim wasn't to avert an

MMC reference.... Some

(RECs) were very insistem that

this price would be too low. I

don't share those views," he said.

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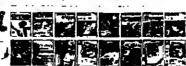
Power shares ended 14.50 37 Time Showrooms higher at 565.5p, while Power-Gen jumped by 7p to 759.5p. Separately vesterday, the Electricity Pool, the wholesale power market, agreed to press ahead with a review of its structure, which consumer groups



proved to be a best seller with its 32Mb RAM, 4 3Gb hard drive and 33 o vitice modern - all at a new lower price of just £899 +VAT

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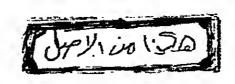


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COMPUTER SYSTEMS

claimed was a pre-emptive move to avert an MMC inquiry.



- Andrew Yates Offer price regime to cut 9% off bills some suppliers would make

Shares in the two privatised generators rose sharply as Offer confirmed that it had backed away from more direct curbs on their wholesale power prices charged to the RECs. National

Offer Must End 18th October

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Takeover bids, real and rumoured, boost second liners

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

STOCK MARKET REPORTER OF THE YEAR The stock market is mesmerof a frenzied takeover spree.

After merger Monday, when deals estimated at £67bn were on offer, the market has cast around, seeking likely

With many companies cash rich and their management prepared to chance their arm there is talk the City's corporate community is in danger of being overwhelmed by the surged 21.5p to 208p, highest activity_

Takeover hids, real and rumoured, have in recent weeks provided a spur for non-Footsie shares with the FTSE 250 index and the FTSE SmallCap index hitting new peaks.

There is also a distinct impressinn many second and third liners affer better investment value than their peers. Yet, although the two

ised by the tantalising prospect highs, they still lag a long way Smith, planning a break-up, behind Footsie.

Since the start of the year Footsie, including dividends, has risen a remarkable 31 per cent; the 250 index has managed a 13 per cent gain and the

SmallCap 12.3 per cent. Much of yesterday's takenver speculation was BICC, in late hectic trading, for six months, on excited talk of a bid today. The Italian Pirelli group is the name in the

English China Clays, up 14p to 290.5p, was another tipped for action with Rio-Tinto rumoured as the pre-

T&N rose 2.5p to 256p as US group Federal Mogul lifted its offer to 260p; not high are often heard, enjoyed anenough, some argue, in scare other busy session, climbing 6p

edged ahead 3.5p to 405.5p.

Little engineer Widney jumped 9.5p to 45.5p after a sharp advance forced the admission it was in bid talks. Among Footsie cnn-

stituents EMI had an early spin, up 15p, on renewed speculation of a Seagram bid, but among supporting shares. by the close the gain had been cut to 3p at 613.5p.

BT, on the bid mania engulfing the American telephone industry, led Footsie with a 24.5p gain to 471.5p. Ladbroke managed a 10p canter to 307.5p and Vodafone 10.5p to 357.5p.

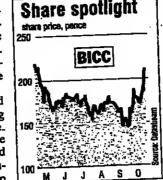
BAT Industries softened 4.5p to 596.5p after agreeing terms with Zurich Insurance.

Norwich Union, where whispers of a Lloyds TSB bid

indices have climbed to new off a counter bidder. WH to 362p, highest since flotation. Stagecoach, which saw analysts Royal & Sun Alliance fell 7p

to 624.5p on profit worries. National Power, up 14.5p to 565.5p, and PowerGen, 7p to 759.5p. enjoyed Société Générale Strauss Turnbull backing. SBC Warburg put

an 800p target price on PG. Coach builder Henlys motored 25p to 396p. Talk of major contracts is in the air.



on Wednesday, and Cowie are thought to be near placing orders. The company is also believed to be close to clinching a Far Eastern acquisition.

Capita, a management group, rose 24p to 313.5p on US presentations and Vega, the software provider hit by a profit warning last month, rose 20p to 245p after winning an RAF contract worth £6m.

Jarvis, the construction and rail maintenance group, advanced 31p to 318.5p; it is near to agreeing terms with the Government for the takeover of the Fastline maintenance

Medeva introduced a little comfort into the drugs sector, gaining 20.5p to 245.5p after nffering optimistic projections for its bepatitis drug.

Newsquest, the newspaper group, made a disappointing TAKING STOCK

debut, reaching 252.5p from a

Property developer Wig-

gins touched a 12.5p peak af-

ter confirming it intends to

6p higher to 26p. Its first deal

since coming to market, via a

reverse takeover of the Arion

property business, is a link with

French Connection in run 2

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rived un Wednesday, rose a

further 9p to 79.5p. It supplies

steel from the former Soviet

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Metalsrussia, which ar-

Chemical Design fell 20p to

90p; the shares have collapsed

120p in two days on a profit

warning. Titon, a ventilation

group, fell 14p to 92.5p after

warning profits would be

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Coffee Republic frothed

resume dividend payments.

250p placing.

ASW, the steel group, is either staging a dramatic recovery or is being stalked by a bidder. Shares of the loss maker rose 2p to 51.5p; they have climbed from 21p in the summer. Last year the company had sales of £531m and lost £51,7m. The French Usinor Sacilor group has 12

Lynx, the acquisitive computer group, held at 100.5p. Stockbroker Greig Middleton says its results should begin to reflect the integration of recent years and lifted its profits forecast to £9.6m for the year just ended and £11.95m for the current year.

Barlows, the property group which paid £43.6m for Rowlinson earlier this year, held at 55p. Stockbroker Sutherlands is looking for 12-month profits of £1.75m against

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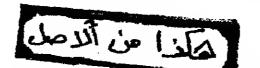
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£500m windfall for BAT investors in Zurich merger

BAT Industries yesterday unveiled a £500m windfall for its shareholders from the planned merger of its financial services arm with Zurich Insurance of Switzerland, but warned investors they face a dividend cut next year. Lea Paterson reports on the break-up of another British conglomerate.

BAT Industries, the tobacco and financial services group which yesterday announced the appointment of former chancellor Kenneth Clarke as nonexecutive deputy chairman, will receive a £500m oet cash payment from Zurich Insurance, the Swiss company which is mergiog with its financial services arm, BAFS.

BAFS owns UK insurers Eagle Star and Allied Dunbar, which yesterday lost its chief executive Steve Melcher in an "unrelated" departure. Allied also announced a further £78m provision in its third-quarter results to cover its liabilities in the pensions mis-selling scandal.

Following the merger with Zurich, BAT's tobacco arm will

float separately as British American Tobacco, headed by current chief executive Martin Broughton, taking the UK quoted tobacco sector to three. An imminent deal between BAT and either Gallaher or Imperial is expected by some analysis.

Zurich will also take on £800m, or around 20 per ceot, of BAT's debt, the companies said in a joint statement yesterday. The new insurance giant, which will boast \$342m of funds under management, is to be called Zurich Financial Services Group (ZF Group) and will be managed by Rolf Hüppi, the head of Zurich Insurance.

BAT shares will be replaced by shares in both British American Tobacco, and Allied Zurich plc, which will hold 45 per ceot of the ZF Group. Zurich Insurance shareholders will own shares in Zurich Allied AG. which will hold the remaining 55 per cent of the ZF Group.

This is very good for BAT and an excellent deal for Zurich sbareholders," said Trevor Moss, BAT analyst at Flemings, yesterday. BAT's share price rose immediately after the announcement, peaking at 619p. It closed at 596.5p, 4.5p down oo the day as investors focused on comments from Lord Cairns, seen as preparing shareholders for a dividend cut. BAT's 1996 dividend of 26p

would have been around 20 per cent lower under the proposed payout policies of ZF Group and British American Tobacco. the companies said.

The board of the ZF Group will be drawn from the boards of Allied Zurich plc and Zurich Allied AG. Mr Hüppi will chair both the board of the ZF Group and the board of Zurich Allied AG. Lord Cairns, currently BAT's chairman, will act as vicechairman on ZF Group's board, vice-chairman of the board of Zurich Allied AG and chairman of the board of Allied Zurich olc. Mr Hūppi will be vice-chairman of Allied Zurich pic.

The newly formed British American Tobacco has a bright future, according to analysts. There will be increased transparency for investors", said Mr Moss, who reckons this should buoy up the tobacco's company value. BAT is also well positioned in high growth markets such as Africa, the Middle East and Latio America.

On the financial services side, Zurich will be able to piggyback oo the distributioo network of Farmers, BAT's US insurer. Other areas of overlap include geoeral insurance and



In the smoke: Kenneth Clarke, who is joining BAT as non-executive deputy chairman

CBI's concerns over Competition Bill dismissed

The Government has rejected most of the criticisms levelled at its Competition Bill by the Confederation of British industry by pressing ahead with sweeping new powers to clamp down on cartels. Michael Harrison reports.

The Bill, published yesterday and due to receive its second reading in Parliament on 30 October, will give the Office of Fair Trading powers to fine companies 10 per cent of their turnover, forcibly eoter premises unannounced and remove documents from firms suspected of operating cartels.

In addition, the legislation will introduce a blanket ban oo abuse of domioant market positions by large companies and give consumers new rights to pursue and obtain damages against companies engaging in anti-competitive behaviour.

The CBI had coodemned the legislation as "extreme" and draconian, warning it gave the OFT powers only paralleled by those that Customs officers can use to bust drug gangs.

The employers organisation bad urged the Government to

limit fines to a maximum of £1m, make the test of abuse of dominant position much more specific and redraft the legislation so that consumer bodies could oot appeal against decisions reached by the OFT.

But the Bill, in its final published form, contains few of the modifications called for by the CBI. The powers of the OFT have been slightly modified to prevent it launching surprise dawn raids and removing original documents without a warrant issued by a magistrate.

The Bill also goes some way to avoiding the "double jeopardy" of firms having to seek approval for some business agreements from competition authorities in both Brussels and London.

However, the Bill contains nooe of the fuodameotal changes sought by the business community. Officials said that the director-general of Fair Tradiog, John Bridgeman, would have to issue detailed guidelines on how the system of fines would operate and how it would assess abuse of a dominant position.

But the DTI refused to water down the OFT's powers arguing that the legislation was designed to act as a deterreot. Outlook, page 25

PSBR on target but strong pound savages industry confidence

Government borrowing this year is likely to meet Gordon Brown's ambitious target, the latest figures suggest. Meanwhile, businesses pleaded for relief from the Bank of England in the form of no more increases in interest rates, reports Dione Coyle,

Days after the Chancellor found an extra £300m for the crisis-torn NHS, new figures yesterday showed that the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) jumped to £3.1bn last month, far more than expected.

But City experts shrugged off the September increase as the result of special factors. Most highlighted instead the surprisingly low growth in public sector spending.

"Despite slightly disappointing September figures, the underlying trend in the PSBR continues to show a fairly spectacular improvement from a year ago as spending falls short." said Adam Cole, an economist at City firm James Capel.

Separately, the quarterly survey of business from the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) highlighted the gap between the fortunes of industry and services. The strong pound has "savaged" manufacturing export activity, the BCC said, taking confidence to a five-year low. Both export orders and overseas sales had deteriorated in the latest quarter.

"We don't want to see further increases in interest rates which would fuel further rises in sterling. That's the critical

point," said Ian Peters, deputy director-geoeral of the BCC.

On the other hand, services reported the highest levels of optimism since the late 1980s and record levels of investment and employment. Their one problem was the worst recruitment difficulties this decade.

David Richardson, the BCC president, indicated that the raised taxes on consumers to reduce the need for higher interest rates to slow down the economy. Yet yesterday's PSBR figures showed that even without extra taxes government borrowing is shrinking fast.

The Government has borrowed £8.6bn since 1 April, the start of the financial year, compared with £15.7bn at the same stage last financial year. Excluding privatisation receipts the cumulative total has shrunk from £19.4bn to £10.4bn. Analysts all said Mr Brown would at worst meet this year's £10.9bn target, and could do eveo better.

Central government expenditure fell sharply last mooth. Departmental spending picked up modestly during the month, taking it to a level just over 1 per cent higher than a year earlier. Not only is this well within the Treasury's forecast for annual spending growth of 1.7 per cent, hut expenditure duriog the first six mooths of the year also remains 1 per cent below the previous year's level.

The comparison bas been helped by some pre-election accounting which classed the sale of Ministry of Defence housing and the studeot loan book as negative speoding. However, rapidly falling unemployment and very restricted growth in public sector pay has helped keep the lid on spending.

Bank may seek fraud statements

The Bank of England is considering forcing senior directors of banks to sign an annual statement confirming that adequate systems and controls are in place to prevent securities fraud within their organisations. The proposal is the latest in a series of suggestions from regulators designed to prevent the sort of systematic fraud that caused the collapse of Barings in 1995.

The idea, which was floated Government should have in an essay in the Bank's latest 'Financial Stability Review', would see the chief executive and chief financial officer of banks promising that Banking Act requirements and policy guidelines had been complied with. The proposal would closely mirror a system in New Zealand where false or misleading disclosure statements incur potentially severe civil and

criminal penalties. The idea of the disclosure statement comes after a similar controversial proposal by the Securities and Futures Authority. It suggested a new rule imposing a direct duty on senior executive officers to take all reasonable steps to ensure their firm's employees act in a way which avoids seriously damaging its reputation.

That proposal caused a storm of protest because it appeared to imply a reversal of the burden of proof. The SFA subsequeotly modified the suggestion so that the oous of proving misconduct remained with the regulator, as at present.

The Securities and Investments Board also put out a consultative paper in July on the responsibilities of senior managers. SIB suggested that every firm should have to prepare a statement setting out its management structure and defining where responsibilities rested.

The New Tudor Chronograph, around £1,000.



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THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

FOITED BY SAMEENA AHMAD

WH Smith board under pressure

Shareholders in WH Smith must wonder what has hit them in the last couple of weeks. After years of inaction coupled with a pathetic underperformance, their company has suddenly been caught up in a whirlwind of activity. Tim Waterstune deserves some credit for acting as catalyst for Smith's demerger plans even if Jeremy Hardie. Smith's chairman, insists a break-up was heing considered all along.

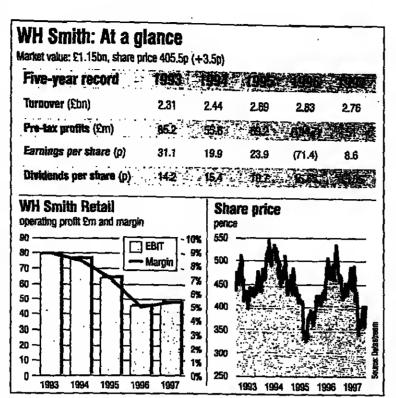
There is no doubt that Mr Waterstone's plans, which included a high level of debt and the sale of the Virgin-Our Price and US businesses, had fundamental weaknesses. But the Smith plan has risks too. On the plus side it will mean a relatively unleveraged vehicle and the possibility of the proceeds of disposals such as Virgin Our Price and The Wall music operation in America being returned to shareholders.

But the real risk is in the demerger of Waterstune's. For a start there is the risk of margin crosion as the buying power will be reduced and costs may be higher. Second, an independent Waterstone's would surely be a sitting duck for takeover. And if it fell to a massmarket player like Barnes & Noble of the US, it could be "dumbed down" and taken into head-on competition with Smith. However, with Waterstone's potentially valued at £300m or 100p per time for DFS share, buying it would be a big leap for Barnes & Noble which would presumable have to pay a premium as well.

Smith can revitalise its core chain. market certainly frowned on yesterday's Here is does seem as if Smith's man-full-year figures. Despite overall sales agement has stolen some of Water- growth of 38 per cent to £254m in the stone's ideas. The decision to focus more year to August, DFS reported just 2 per on books, stationery and magazines does cent like-for-like sales growth. Only two make sense, as does keeping the music years ago the company was lurning in and video operation which still has a underlying sales growth of over 8 per sizeable market share

its own shareholders, Richard Handover 30.5p to 570p. and co will be under pressure to deliver

Foreign Exchange Rates



years. Land costs are soaring, partic-

ularly in London where the group is

expanding fast. DFS also spent some

£1m on prime-time television ad-

vertising on LWT and Carlton in the

that there is an alternative to Ikea for

chairman, said the company had seen

few benefits of building society

windfalls. The hot weather in August

also apparently discouraged furniture

shopping. A glance around the industry

petitor in Londoo.

achievement.

Meanwhile, demand is not what it

Smith shares trade on a forward multiple of just 12. That seems cheap. After putting up with all the shenanigans of the last few years. Smith's shareholders should not sell now.

Uncomfortable

Life is looking less than cushy for DFS, As ever, much depends on whether the fast-growing sofa retailer. The cent. Operating margins in the year Whoever had the ideas first matters were also sharply down, falling from little to shareholders who stand to 15.8 per cent to 14.6 per cent, below benefit anyway. Having been given an the 15 per cent average for the furnialmighty prod by Mr Waterstone and ture industry. DFS's share price fell

The company's rapid expansion southwards in the face of rising adver-If they fail, it will not be long before tising and land costs is putting pressure someone else has another tilt at it - on margins. Last year DFS opened six possibly hostile next time. With analysts stores, taking the total to 44. Another forecasting full-year profits of £140m. 15 to 20 are planned over the next three a 651p high at the start of the year. overseas markets.

Interest Rates

House broker Nat West Securities has reduced profit estimates next year from £47.5m to £45m. That puts DFS's shares on a forward earnings ratio of 20 times. High enough.

Ultraframe set for listing

At first glance Ultraframe, the biggest conservatory roof maker in the UK which is coming to the market next week, looks like a decent investment. It has a solid financial track record and a strong position in a niche market. Demand for its products should show a healthy rate of growth over the next few years thanks to the continuing rise in the housing market, with new homeowners more tempted to splash out on an extension.

It is also moving into the higher margin commercial market rather than relying solely on domestic purchases. New products used in anything from fancy new buildings to swimming pools are also doing well.

But while its short-term future looks assured, Ultraframe's profit growth could well begin to slow within a few years. It has already cornered year to persuade shoppers in the South around 35 per cent of the UK conservatory market which limits its ability to expand over here. And demand for conservatories will fall if the fickle should be. Sir Graham Kirkham, the housing market takes a tumble.

Ultraframe's fortunes will then hinge on its overseas expansion plans. It hopes to take a large chunk of the US and Far Eastern market but, as always, competition is fierce and shows that DFS is not the only one success is far from guaranteed.

struggling. Maples has gone into re-John Lancaster, the group's founder, and his family have also sold ceivership and Airsprung is having a rotten time. The merger of H&C and a buge chunk of shares, which should Kingsbury may also increase pressure send out some warning bells to on DFS and Ikea remains a strong cominvestors.

Ultraframe will be valued as There is no doubt that DFS is a £136.4m, putting the shares oo a historquality player. Manufacturing on ical p/e of 15.8 for the year to Septdemand has meant stock levels at the ember, a small discount to the building group are falling, despite a 15 per ceot materials sector. Ultraframe's placing ncrease in space, an impressive has certainly whipped up plenty of interest from institutions, which should However, the group's quality has ensure the shares get off to a decent long been reflected in the company's start. But investors should be wary of steep price-carnings multiple and the holding the shares in the long-term until shares have marked time since hitting the group shows evidence it can crack

Liffe Financial Futures

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

JOHN WILLCOCK



Forget the EMU bust-up between Tony Blair and Gordon Brown. I can reveal that the real rift in New Labour lies between Nigel Griffiths MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Competition and Consumer Affairs, and Austin Mitchell, the maverick MP for Great Grimsby.

On Wednesday night Mr Griffiths delivered the first ever Bernard Phillips Memorial Lecture to the Insolvency Practitioners Association(IPA), the trade body for Britain's receivers, gathered in the Great Hall of Grays Inn, central London.

Mr Griffiths was just launching into his plans for strengthening the DTI's powers to disqualify rogue directors when he mentioned Mr Mitchell, a former TV journalist who has earnt a waspish reputation as a critic of the insolvency and accountancy professions since entering Par-

"I know we all have a soft spot for Austin," said the puckish Minister. "It's a bog in the north of Scotland."

How the gathered receivers laughed. Amongst them was the president of the IPA and host of the evening, David Sapte, who was recently appointed receiver to Sunday Business. Tom Rubython's failed venture. Also there was Chris Swinson, deputy president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales, and possibly the largest man in a suit I have ever seen; and Ian Bond, a senior insolvency partner with Coopers & Lybrand who is a fortnight away from retirement.

Mr Bond says that he has somehow fallen into the role of marriage broker for professional bodies. He is currently trying to negotiate a merger between two insurance associations, egos permitting. Perhaps he should turn his attention closer to home. As Mr Sapte pointed out, the insolvency profession, which has only 1,900 licensed members in the UK, has no less than nine self regulating bodies.

If Manchester- based car parts maker Turner & Newell does succumb to Federal Mogul's bid, then T&N's chairman Sir Colin Hope better learn some new tricks. The Americans, led by Fed's chairman and chief executive officer both Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan.

Industrial Metals

Dick Snell, want Sir Colin to be an "international adviser" to the newly merged group. Sir Colin himself insisted yesterday that: "I don't want to play second fiddle to Dick Snell." Some scope for friction there, I think.

king

Street Section 1877

Mr Snell's company really goes in for all that inspirational touchy-feely stuff: It's slogan is "BHAG: \$10bn by 2002." Translated into English, this means it's "Big Hairy Audacious Goal" is to increase in size by five times by the year 2002. It also aims to achieve "Positive EVA" , or "Economic Value Added".

It will be fascinating to see whether the lads on T&N's shop floor in Manchester will appreciate Fed's "Core Values: We are driven toward mastery in all we do."

There have to be some compensations for all those hundreds of Labour MPs who haven't been invited to join the Government. Stnart Bell, MP for Middlesbrough, is filling in the odd day each month with accountancy giant Ernst & Young, which has just hired him as a "special adviser". E&Y senior partner Nick Land is delighted.

Mr Bell's "knowledge and experience on a range of subjects affecting the economy and businesses will be a great asset to the firm and our clients," says Mr Land. But how will Mr Bell get on with the firm's other two Parliameotary advisers? Step forward Christopher Chope, Conservative MP for Christchurch, and former Tory Minister David Mellor.

Mr Mellor, an E&Y spokesman tells me, "adds a dimension we don't have ourselves." I hope this doesn't have anything to do with wearing Chelsea football shirts to bed

A former Independent journalist has popped up as the managing director of Europe's first online auction house. Tim Jackson, who also used to pen the odd word for the Economist, is heading up the launch of Quixell, which offers "the thrill of the auction house from the comfort of your PC."

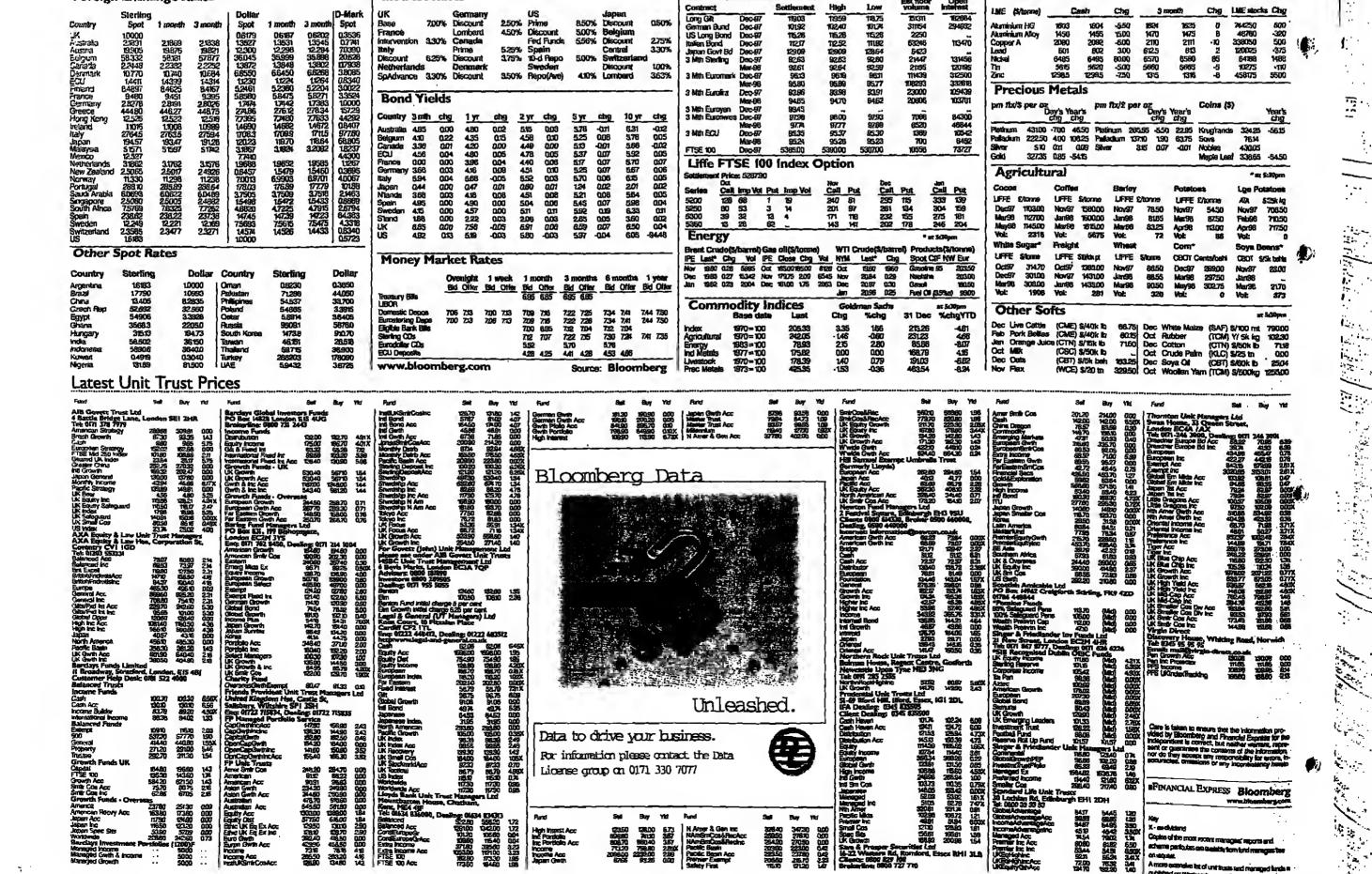
Tim explains: "(The company) will enable you to buy computers and software using your credit card over the World Wide Web. The main point that the customer sets the price."

All you have to do is key into Quixell's website and choose a product you want from its catalogue. When the relevant product is auctioned you enter your bid by phone. An auction can last from three to seven days, then if you're successful you get the product shipped to you for an average postal cost of under £3,

Typically we will be selling stuff at well under half the high street price," he says. Private sellers can also flog their old computers and software via Quixell free of charge, he adds.

Tim's four collaborators on the project include Alan Skea, the company's technical expert who has worked for Credit Suisse First Bostoo and DE Shaw Securities.

A British head-hunting firm, Goddard Kay Rogers, is merging with an American equivaleot, Pendleton James Associates, which has American Presideotial connections. Mr Pendleton "Pen" James is a former election adviser to



King to join the Champions' party

Punters were left reeling by wins for six rank outsiders at Newmarket yesterday.

But Desert King looks primed to join the top contenders expected to dominate tomorrow's Champion Stakes, reports Richard Edmondson

The shape of tomorrow's Champions Day card at Newmarket remained as constant as the contents of a lava lamp yesterday as connections of two leading players stumbled over participation. If you want to place a shrewd guess on these matters, the essence seems to be that both Desert King and Xuar will augment already compelling fields in the Champion Stakes and Dewhurst Stakes respectively.

Aidan O'Brien, Ireland's leading trainer, would be noncommittal when discussing an

extra pint with the milkman, so in California is another venue for his words yesterday about Desert King were as authoritative as we can expect from Ballydoyle. "It looks as though Desert King will be running in the Champion Stakes," he said. "I will have to confirm that later tonight when I speak to owners Michael Tabor and John Magnier. If he runs,

Kieren Fallon will ride." Tabor, though, is unlikely to see his dual Classic winner steaming across the Suffolk flatlands. He is expected to be in New York at Belmont Park, witpessing the Breeders' Cup auditions of his juveniles with D

Tony McCoy, the champion

jump jockey, moved on to 82

winners for the term after a

near 82-1 four-timer at Taunton

yesterday and stayed on course

to break his own record for the

fastest 100 winners in a season.

the partnership's Cup aspirants this weekend. Desert King himself might still run in the Breeders' Cup Turf, especially as Tabor's Arlington Million winner, Marlin, has suffered a career-terminating injury.

Those behind Xaar are getting a bit twitchy about the Falklands weather that has somehow found its way up to East Anglia. The chirpy little Nick Lees, clerk of the course, assures us the ground will be good all round come the big day. There is even a forecast for fine, warm weather tomorrow. which will be news to those who

Four-timer propels McCoy towards century

Pastel, Northern Drums and

Mite Equal for Martin Pipe and

Peter Bowen's Danger Baby.

Last season McCov hit the 100

mark on 21 November.

McCoy's wins came on Gray

gaberdines on vesterday. Nevertheless a grave caveat

was issued from Camp Xaar. "In view of the uncertain weather forecast and the present description of good to soft going at Newmarket, we feel it is only fair to warn punters that Xaar will not run if there is any reference to "soft" in the going description on Saturday morning," Grant Pritchard-Gordon, the racing manager to the colt's

owner, Khalid Abdullah, said. Soft was also the description of punters' resolve at close of play at Newmarket vesterday following victories for a 33-1 shot, three at 20-1 and two at Wayne Lukas. Santa Anita Park were fighting to keep their 16-1. Santillana, at 6-1, was the

track for Jamie Osborne, who

was concussed after a fall on

Royal Action. Osborne faces a

rest of at least seven days and

misses riding the fancied Father

Sky in the Charisma Gold Cup

relative hotpot in the Severals Conditions Stakes.

John Gosden's colt had not run since hurting himself in victory at Sandown early last year and the relief of his team was evidenced by a flying dismount from Frankie Dettori. A superficial examination of

this afternoon's card might have backers searching for the cutthroat, though it may transpire that the 28-runner nursery handicap is not as complex as it seems. The dead ground and winds at Headquarters mean that whatever wins today will have to possess the capacity to come back and take a Crsarewitch later in their career. GENEROSITY (nap 3.45) has already proved that he could get a job with the pony express.

In the televised opener, Gosden starts off Louis Philippe. like Santillana a son of El Gran Schor, and there is another interesting entrant in the San Siro debut winner Sottvus. The best option, though, looks to be Abreeze (2.05), who is consid-



Fallon: set for Desert King

cred to be one of Godolphin's best juveniles.

Fahris, who did not stay in the Cumberland Lodge Stakes last time, is back to a proven distance in the Darley Stakes, but it is informative that animals that have finished behind him before reform to take on the penalised topweight. Of these, Green Card (next best 2.35) is the most persuasive.

Bollin Joanne will be fancied in the Listed Bentinck Stakes but the one to follow here is Snow Kid (3.10), who has been assessed as Group Three standard by his jockeys. We find out today what sort of judges they are.

HYPERION'S TV TIPS

NEWMARKET

2.05: Sottons is difficult to weigh up. His only run so far resulted in a victory, but that came in an Italian maiden race. Abreeze has an obvious chance on his Sandown debut win, but came home only seventh of eight runners on this track last time out it seems best to rely on LUCAYAN INDIAN, who put in a solid performance at Newcastle a fortnight ago. David Loder's stable has his form of late.

2.35: FAHRIS won the Feilden Stakes on this track in the spring but failed to fulfil Derby potential. He has none the less proved a worthy contender on good company and may well outclass today's opposition.

3 to: Bollin Joanne will be popular here. On her perultimate start she was a convincing Doncuster winner from Almaty and Carmine Lake. The latter has since boosted that form at Longehamp, Last time out, though, the mare disap-pointed favourite backers when only third at Newbury, SNOW KID is a three-year-old who could be up to taking this event. This cult

251 251 251 251 Coden GR Z-1 Z-1 33-1 30-1 My Best Videration 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 66-1 100-1 66-1 66-1 Henry Golf Rose 15-2 9-1 10-1 8-1 Ometa City 33-1 33-1 33-1 25-1 Scow Kid 5-1 5-1 4-1 9-2 Superior Premiuse 14-1 17-1 12-1 14-1 Tipsky Creek 7-1 10-1 9-1 9-1 51 81 351 351 Airmai 20-1 20-1 20-1 16-1 Bollin Joenne 4-1 4-1 7-2 4-1 During Destiny 50-1 50-1 40-1 50-1 Dietra Luma 50-1 66-1 50-1 40-1 Prends Ca 27-1 25-1 25-1 25-1 Michecool Flower 5-1 9-2 71-2 8-1 Plant D'Amour 7-1 11-2 7-1 6-1 Each way, a quaranter out to place 1, 2, 3, 4 C-Cool H-William Hill - Latheries T - Total

3.10 Newmarket

was second to the very useful Wizard King over seven furlongs at the Curragh a month ago and has the pace (or this shorter trip.

3.45; Obviously a contest for pun-ters to be wary of, particularly with the runners likely to split into two or more groups. Perhaps middle to low numbers will have an edge. The Glow Worm, drawn in the centre. can be expected to produce a strong challenge. From stall five. ROBORANT seems sure to be dangernus. John Dunlop's yard is certainly firing and the booking of Mick Kinane appears significant

NEWMARKET HYPERION 3.45 Roborant 4.15 Atuf 1.30 JAWAH (nap) 2.05 Lucayan Indian (nb) 4.45 Green Jacket 2.35 Fahris 3.10 Snow Kid

GOING: Straight Course - Good to Soft, Remainder - Good. STALLS: For side. DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

BRIST-hard course with Im21 straight.

■ Right-hard course with Im21 straight.

■ Course is SW of flown on A 1304. Bus link from Cambridge and Newmarket stations. ADMISSION: Cub 2:5: Grandstand & Paddook 170; Silver Ring C3. CAR PARIC Free.

■ LEADING TRAINERS: H Cecil 45-187 (241%). J Goaden 29-189 (151%). 8 Hills 24-209 (155%). 8 Hannon 29-342 (67%). L Cuminni 21-166 (127%).

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: L Detton 58-363 (146%). M Hills 28-263 (106%). R Hills 24-196 (129%). J Reid 24-273 (88%). T Cubin 21-281 (75%).

■ Favourities: 277-671 (32.3%).

■ Hills PROSE TIME: Amountains (130) Miscord Zens Monthweb (145).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Announcing (130) (Visored), Zena, Moothyeb (345)

1.30 EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS HANOICAP (CLASS C) £8,000 added 3YO 1m 6f Penetty Value £6,212
47002 KILMA (ISA) (17) (BF) (Shekh Armed A Mekdourn) L Curren 87. L Detod 7
54600 METHAK (ISA) (44) (Hentan A Mekdourn) L Curren 87. L Detod 7
50006 ASSURED GAMELE (17) (C) (Poter A Head) C Britain 8 II. JA J Kinene 14
50405 THORNEY PARK (7) (D) (Applieby Lodge Saud) J Durlop 8 12. R Firench (3) 13
50006 MESTER FIRIK (6) (C) W Sammar R Juhnson Haughter 6 II. JA J Med 11
53182 PREMEESS TORAZ (20) (D) (Sephen Crown) C Cyrer 8 II. K Darkey 3
05004 ROYAL CASTLE (10) (D) (Lod Weinstock W R Hen 8 II (Ext) T Sprake 1
36204 FOREIGN RULE (106) (D) (Mis Susan McCarthy) J Jerkers 8 0. T Outlin 8
0-202 RHERBEOLD (78) (E (Diver) T Etherrigion 8 II. C Rother 1
434332 DOVEDON STAR (4) (Methad C Whathy) P (Kelevety 8 7. K Fallon 4
603-01 HURGILL DANCER (18) (Gorald Cooper) 3 W Wester 8 4. J Carrell 13
0-052 JAWAH (13) (D) (Shek Ahmed Yoush Al Sabch) K Mahdi 8 2. Metho Dwyer S
0-203 ZIBETH (23) (J E Melo) S Dove 7 10. J Caden 8 V
0-031 ZIBETH (23) (J E Melo) S Dove 7 10. J Caden 8 V
0-0431 ZIBETH (23) (J E Melo) S Dove 7 10. J Caden 9 V
0-0410 Revenue Melo (14) (Cooper 14) C Carrell 7-1 (Cooper 15) C Cooper 15 Cooper 15 Cooper 15 C Co C) £8,000 added 3YO 1m 6f Penetty Value £6,212

— 14 declared —
Minimum weight: 7st 10th. True handicap weight: Zitheth 7st 3th.
BETTING: 11-2 Kilme, Royal Caeste, 6-1 Jaweh, 13-2 Mithek, 7-1 Thornby Park, 8-1 Devedon Star,
9-1 Princese Topez, 10-1 Assumd Gambie, 12-1 Foreign Rute, Hurgill Denose, Zibeth, 14-1 others
1996: Plamands 3 B 9 L Dettori 11-4 law (L. Curren) drawn (\$1 8 rs1

Royal Castle is one of Ock Hema slower horses and the ground could be a problem as he flopped in the good to soft at Sandown in August, He did beat the older horses in style at Redcar to days ago and was staying on agoin at Goodwood on his previous start when a kingh-fourth to 20hoth, for which he is allowed 5ts, it would not be a surprise to switch a kenggin-touth in Justice, for which re is after weight, but THORNEY PARK stays well and has Royston Firench taking off 3to with regular ruder Tim Sprake on Royal Castle. She is better in at the weights with Klima, despite fiveshing in front of the filly when fourth to Lifte at Goodwood and she also got closer to Jeseur leased down) at Ascord weede ago alk has a chance on form and it is interes compared to their earner encounter, Mitmain has a chance on form call at limitersong that the headgear is removed. Stuck in the mud at York last time, Mithaik was previously second it Sausalito Bay on the Knavesmer when he was carried wide into the straight. Solo Micro and Dance So Sulte battled it out here yesterday so Klima, who spirt the partiest time, can still be given a chance. Assured Gambile, with Mick Kinene taking over, a closely matched with Mithaik on Sendown nurving behind High Intrigue, but the visor will have to work for the maiden Announcing to take a hand. Princess Topics, second to Jasseur last moreth, has the same chance as Thomby Park on the Lated race form at Good-word behind Bertind (Humfill Depared has the same chance on the store and and further the second in Chi. wood behind Pentad. Hurgill Dancer has not run since April and Jewah's second to Chi-

2.05 HOUGHTON CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS B) C4

1 SOTTYUS (20) (D) (Soudera Percell Sti) I. Curreni 8 3 _______ J Weaver 2 ____ J Mercet 2 ____ J Weaver 2 ____ J Mercet 3 ____ K Patient 1 103 CI LUCAYAN INDIAN (16) (Lucayan Stud) D Loder 9 1 _____ K Patient 3 93

- 7 declared -SETTING: 7-4 Abreeze, 9-4 Locayan Indian, 5-1 Cloud Castia, 6-1 Al-Faleh, 15-2 Sottvus, 12-1 Louis

There was had news at the at Kempton tomorrow.

GETTING: 7-4 Abreeze, 9-4 Locarysi Indian, 5-1 Cloud Castile, 6-1 Ai-Thissi, 10-2 continue, 10-1 Philippe, 14-1 Astrologer
1996: Chimson Top 2-8 -2 M Hiss 9-4 jt lay (J Hist) driven (3-8 ran
FORM GUIDE
Abreeze was short of experience in the Somervilla Tattaraali here, beating only one home.
Seemingly fattered by his debut Sandown win from Dark Moondancer (winner on Wednesday), he may not cope with LUCAYAN INDIAN, who tooks sure to appreciate this trip after containg late to beat Ethabuta at Newcastle (6). Not agitted on his debut at Newbury, Lucayan indian an improve yet again and the lines through Somerville Tattereal second
Bintang (beat Ethabuta at York) gives David Loder's charge every chance of beating the
Godolphin colt. Astrologer, third to Poly Blue in the Newbury race where Lucayan Indian finished in the ruck, may need to improve to confirm the suspect superiorsy. Softwais is out to go one better than Supize, who was second to lindhar four years ago after winning in tally. Al-Fathi is a Castrolo out of the decent German-winning mare Fish articles, while Cloud Castle is an in The Wings filly from the tamily of Luca and Needle Gun. From the stable of group winner Greenlander, Cloud Castle could be smart, but the leading is Louis Philippe is going to need his introduction.

Selection: LUCAYAN INDAN

2.35 BARING INTERNATIONAL DARLEY STAKES (LISTED RACE) (CLASS A) £17,000 added 1 m

7 declared
BETTING: 5-4 Febria, 4-1 Museisal, 11-2 Proper Blue, 15-2 Amid Albadu, 6-1 Febrialy, 10-1 WeelAsimula, 12-1 Green Card.

1996: Terrara 4-9 0 R Hughes 9-2 (N Callagram) drawn (S) 10 ran
FORM OUTDE

Museisal, third to Benny The Dip in the Dente, ran in the Denty when he was Michael
Halle jobs over The Ry, He has had two runs back since Epsom and his Concaster third
to Febrial Son and Alexal was a sound effort on ground a bit too last for him, as it was
next time in Germany. The surface gives him the chance to shine and Barry Hall's horses are in peak form at the moment. But FAHRIS reverts to his best trip after failing to
stay in the Cumberland Lodge at Asoot. He has the pensity to defy after the sa-length
win from Desent Story in the Select Stabes at Goodwood, but he showed there that he
can handle a bit of cut in the ground. Both Green Card and Amid Albedur take him on
again after Goodwood with a 7tb put, but they were comprehensively besten Amid Albadu had was in last place at one stage and his Epsom win from Winter Romance was under a more forceful ride, so he may do better today. The ground tooks a problem for the
filey Februality, and Weel-A-Millinute is proving hard to with with That leaves Proper Blue,
winter at the backend here last year and a strong second to Darish Rhapsody at Goodwood last time.

3.10 BEDFORD LODGE HUTEL BEN 1000 added 6f LISTED RACE) (CLASS A) £18,000 added 6f BEDFORD LODGE HOTEL BENTINCK STAKES [

	Leilerth Agree 7 12-700
000440	CROFT POOL (6) (C) (D) (Countrywede Classics Limited) J Glover 6 9 S G Canter 17 1
	CRETAN GIFT (20) (D) (T Clarke) N Littroctor 68 2 J Winner 5 B 1
512030	MY BEST VALENTINE (20) (The Valentines) V Science 7 8 12 A Cochrane 3 12
XVICE	REFER (19) (D) (Stockrept Guarding Ltd) R Ingram 4 8 2 D O'Donohos 4
062300	HEVER GOLF ROSE (12) (II) (Hever Racing Club) T J Naughton 8 8 T . T Quien 8 C
361630	CMAHA CITY (20) (Bran Gubby List) 8 Gubby 3 8 m M Fenton 15 5
1002	SHOW KID (27) (At Sared) D Lode 3 8 11 Deltar 7 12
5-036	SUPERIOR PREMIUM (19) (J.C. Parsons) R Fathey 38 11 J Carroll 14 1
122-03	TIPSY CREEK (USA) (15) (Humster At Naksouri) B Harbury 3 8 ft R Hills 2 to
स्थ्य	ZA-Ril (44) (D) (Hamban Al Maktourn) B Hits 38 ft
ट्या	ALMASI (14) (D) The Equerra Partnersho) G Vial 587 Sandora 13 9
	BOLLIN JOANNE (29) (D) (BP) (Lichy Viestrock) T Easterby 4 B7 . K Fellon 1 V
20-00	DARWING DESTRAY (20) (D) (Daring Destry Partners) K Burta 8 8 7 D Holland 18 B ft
	CRYPNA LLINA COR ID J Deen J HOS 487 M HTML 6 !

BETTING: 4-1 Bottin Joanne, 9-2 Snow Kid, 9-1 Pleistr of Aresus, Wilderson Fireway, 9-1 Hever Gott Rose, 9-1 Tray Creat, 14-1 Superior Prescison, 18-1 Almana, My Best Valentine, 20-1 Prends Ca, Create, Gal, 25-1 Creat Food, Greate, GB, 28-1 RIDE 1996: Russian Revival (USA) 3-8 nt W R Switzum 20-1 (5) bit Surpor) drawn (6) 15 mm. FORM GUIDE.

SNOW KID Investment and series and series

1985: Russan Reviral (LSA) 3 8 n W R Swintum 20-1 (S tan Surcor) drains (a) 5 nan PORM GUIDE.

SNOW KID loves teach ground and will not be stopping with his seven-furlang stamina. He had the metoriume to come across the telented Wazard King less time and he is the choice to win this from stall seven. Ayr Gold Cup wrinner Wildsmoot Flower has a fine draw in 16 and meets the Ayr third Superior Premium (considered short of peak fitness then) on 3b better terms. She ran well with a weiter burden in Bowden Roses handcost here each time and meets Plaistr D'Amour (second). Almast (lithd) and Prends Ca (fourth) on itsughly a stone better terms. Wildwood Flower handled the ground at Goodwood last month and has a fine chance today. The ground has come right for Bollin Josanna, though stall one is diffaulting. Third on a tester surface over the meanum to Eveningperformance and Casting Blue at Newtury last time, she meets Croft Pool (fourth) a pound better and Tipey Creak (severth) on the same terms. Tipsy Creak finished closer to Dealing Blue here next time and this pacy cold could go dose if he stays the sixth furlong. Almast, of course, faces a massive test on these terms, but the race is made for her late thrust and sels Sanders talkes over from the female appendice. Conf Pool has a great draw and, while the trip and ground could court against him, he does ratish this course with its up-hill finish. Za-tim is the type to show better form on this ground, and Daving Dealtiny is another who could go well at big odds siter her return to action at Acott behind Erhadim. Selection; SNOW KID

3.45 NGK SPARK PLUGS NURSERY HANDICAP C4 (CLASS C) EB,000 added 2YO 1m Penalty Value 27,554
3722 ALCOMLEICH (89) (8F) (4) David Abed) M Johnston 9 7 ... J. Wearrer 22 92
383 THE GLONN-WORM (38) (Ms. J. M. Corbett) B Hills 9 1 ... M Hills 15 100
45945 KMR'S BRANYE (29) (1) (3) K Srry 8 Meethan 8 92 ... K Fallon 22 B 100
4504 BRIZZ (28) (Say Rendy C Thornton 8 n ... Death MicKeonen 19 101
64404 AFTER THE RAIR (22) (K Abduld (8 Hills 8 l) ... Death MicKeonen 19 101
93 MAUTICAL STAR (63) (Nethrel Mickeoney J Hills 8 n ... Mickeoney (3) 25 99
25022 RON'S PET (29) (George E K Teo) R Harmon 8 n ... Mall Henry (3) 25 99
25022 RON'S PET (29) (George E K Teo) R Harmon 8 n ... Death MicKeoney R Hills 19 102
445 MCNISALEM (USA) (29) (7) (29) (Codaphin) Saend (3) Sarpor 8 11 ... Death 8 107
0020 MASTER MAC (USA) (28) (Charles Parlier) R Abeturat 9 9 ... S Sanders 1 90
0020 EBR MANTER (45) (Anthrony Pye-Jisary R Johnson Houghton 8 8 ... A Dely (3) 12 90
0020 TENSILE (26) (Art V Sheltar) L Current 8 8 ... K Darley 3 80
61 MISTER BENJAMIN (29) (Ifst Julie (10y) S Woods 8 7 ... N Dey 18 99
0401 HOBLE DEMAND (USA) (43) (0) (45 Alson les) Mr. J Ramston 8 7 ... N Dey 18

— 28 declared — 28 declared — 29 declared —

4.55 SOUR BECK CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS D) £4,550 added 2YO 5f

Chester House at Goodwood. Ock Hem's fifty Nebit turned the formbook upside down whon seversing debut form with Rad Rabbit at Sandown. She is another here who looks on a decard mark. Moreajem, a soft ground winner at Chepstow, won the race on the untavoured side when fifth to Lend A Hand at Doncaster. The Glow-Worns stayed on well in third on the Isvouréd side and they meet on identical terms today. Dust winner Maeter Mae (claimer notion last time) is a threat back with Seb Sanders, white Ayr winner Nautical Star and the well-regarded sand winner Misses Benganth are blooble. Noble Demand beat Ben Rinnes in terrible ground at fork, so seems harshly treated with a Strise, white Blue Demet may find this too tough offer the seller win at Notturghum. Cantalan Puzzler and Legend Of Love have shaped with plenty of promise in maders. But a tog weight in this ground may prove too much for Alconfeigh. Iron Mountain has proved he stays well and is another with a squeak with a good apprehence booked.

Selection: ROSORANT

4.15 EBF SNAILWELL MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £7,000 added 2YO 6f Penalty Valua £6,391 N Day 10 M Henry (3) 14 U J Kmans 18 X Fation 3

SCOETY KING IR Sabeyi J Beris 9 8 J Quinto 3

SPLENDID ISOLATION (1834) (Lord De La War) L Curran 9 0 K Dealby 5

G 5 SURPRISE PRESENT (181) (Advancet Sura) R Honor 9 8 Dans O' Netiz 20

S 22 ATUF (1934) (201) (Cortafach) Sured bin Sacre 8 9 L Dealbort 7

RARY ROCK (Lofin C Grant 8 Hüs 8 9 M His 8 9 M His 8 6

METRA MEIGHTS (1934) (K 1 Mest W Masson 8 9 R Decharae 9

G JOCASTA (C J A Hugher) C Walt 8 9 R Decharae 9

G JOCASTA (C J A Hugher) C Walt 8 9 S R Decharae 9

J Reid 4

T REGILEBDIALE (P E Coper (Susar Abbott Racing)) J Dunicp 8 9 T Contin 15

SWING ALONIG (W G Bovil) C Walt 8 9 S Sanders 12

TOFFOLIX (G G Neete) H Colongridge 8 9 D D Shoot 17

BETTING: 9-4 And, 4-1 Shart, 5-1 Gotton Repriseand, 8-1 Feiry Rock, 10-1 Ribbleedier, 11-1 Dillusthies, 12-1 Surprise Present, 14-1 Juessta, Society Ring, Splandid Isolation, 16-1 others

1998: Baked Alacka 2 8 9 D Hamson 33-1 IA Stream distance in the with Stribug functioning close behand Alack 2 8 9 D Hamson 33-1 IA Stream distance in the with Stribug functioning close behand Alack a 2 8 9 D Hamson 33-1 IA Stream distance in the With Stribug functioning close behand Alack 19 (speed by Wenday in the Blue Seal at Accort. Pary Kings daughter FAIRY ROCK who has a decent high draw and but of a mare who won as a juvenile, is the Hills' newcome taken to best Alut Richard Hamnon has how. Golden Reprintant with Mich Stream booked after a pleasing first showing in Tamansker acc at Gerous Goodwood and Surprise Present (Dane O'Neill), who book a strong put in CracSteels roce on the July course (77) Shari, a close second to Sensony at Lecesser, met a tartar in Fleet wood at Hangdock met time - both over seven furionys. Diffusish was not knocked about on his debut at Goodwood behand testand, while Darmer Biggs won on O'An here on Carning Budsh were not knocked about on his debut at Goodwood behand testand, while Darmer Biggs won on O'An here on Carning the 12-burlong filest face at Royal Assor next year, and her half-sette Topida wire for market over Seven furions. Swing Mong ner over seven runongs. Swing Along is from a family of juve ket may tell us something about Splendid Isolation

4.45 NEWMARKET CHALLENGE CUP (CLASS G) 290

CATTERICK

2.10 Rubamma 2.45 Night City 3.20 Scurrilous 3.55 Patly Golightly 4.25 Taufan Boy 4.55 Territory 5.25 Allinson's Mate GOING: Soft (Good to Soft in places). STALLS: Inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

STALLS: Inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

• Left-frand course, uncluding and sharp. Not suitable for the long-striding horse. Run-in - 240yds.

• Course is NW of town on A6136. Derlington station 14m - bus service to course. ADMISSION: Cub Ett: Tattersuits ET. Course 2250 (under 16s free into all enclosures). CAR PARK: Free.

• LEADING TRAINERS: J Berry 27-200 (135%). 8 HRIs 20-55 (15A%). Mrs M Reveley 20-112 (175%) Mohtmation 16-100 (16%).

• LEADING JOCKEYS: J Carroll 28-175 (155%). J Fortune 129 (147%). 1. Chemock 15-155 (91%). G Duffield 8-70 (114%).

• ENOUTHER: 205-55 (94%).

ELINKERED FRIST TIME: Reseed 245 (visored). Peep O Day (245) (visored). St Lucia (320). Happy Days Again (455). Night Of Class (525).

2.10 RICHMONDSHIRE NURSERY HANDI-CAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 2YO 7f OSSO PRINCESS NATALE (13) M W Excesty 8 3 7 Luces 8
OSSO RESPOND (77) G L Moore 8 1. Cark 17
644 PRINCE ASHLEGH (4) P Hostem 9 1. G Lowther (5) 14
06000 SUGGEST (S3) (0) W Sorrey 6 2 J Favaring 1
OSD LARAMANIA (20) P Excess 8 11. J F Egen 4
020 RAY OF SUMSTANE (13) Mo J Faursche 8 11. J F Egen 4
020 RAY OF SUMSTANE (13) Mo J Faursche 8 11. J F Egen 4
020 RAY OF SUMSTANE (13) Mo J Faursche 8 11. J Fortune 2
020 ROYAL RITERVIEW (14) M Chemica 8 9 ... A Cultimor 13
0346 MISS SALSA DANCER (25) D Smith 8 7 ... P Faursch (3) 18
05303 PETARA (11) (CD) J Warmingto 8 7 ... F Marileo (5) 8
05003 SANDMOOR TARTAN (45) T Easterby 6 4 ... L Charmock 15
001306 SANDMOOR TARTAN (45) T Easterby 6 4 ... L Charmock 15
001306 SANDMOOR TARTAN (45) T Easterby 6 4 ... L Charmock 15
001306 SANDMOOR TARTAN (45) T Easterby 6 4 ... L Charmock 15
001306 SANDMOOR TARTAN (45) T Easterby 6 4 ... L Charmock 15
001306 SANDMOOR TARTAN (45) T Gesterme 4 ... T Williams 3
0000 BARRELBIO (56), J J D Well 8 1 ... G Bardwell 13

- 17 deciared -BETTING: 8-1 Prince Ashleigh, 7-1 Massilance, 8-1 Ray of Sunshine, Coon-sel, 10-1 Robertone, Poters, Marsice Machine, 12-1 Others

HEREFORD 1,45 Brownes Hill Lad 2,20 Indian Temple 2.55 My Harvinsid 3.30 Odell 4.05 Danzig Island 4.35

1.45 EBF 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 1f 120-1 BROWNES HILL LAD (20) (7) R O'SLÉRA 5 TO S.A.P. NECOY DOOR ABOVE SUSPICION (24) C. Lames 5 TI 0 . J.R. Krastrogh (1401) BANK AVENUE (224) M Porran 8 TI 0 W Marston of DICKYVEARINCOMBE (769) A Earmy 5 TI 8 Mr O INSTRUCTOR (7) 606 HOMBIE DE PER (167) N Balley 5 TI 0 N WERSINGON 3.55 CROW HOLE BANK HANDICAP (CLASS D) \$4,900 added \$1
1 \$1300 THEASURE TOUCH \$20 (0) \$1 Notes \$1.00
2 \$1227 DOMENTI AR (19) (0) \$1 Notes \$1.00 \$1 Control 16
3 WESS LADY SHERIF [16] (CS) \$1 (12.20) \$2 \$1 Licen \$8\$

= 14 declared = BETTING: 5-4 Odette, 13-2 Hit The Spot 7-1 Acatand, St Locia, 6-1 Sour-

- 12 declared -BETTING: 15-8 Swan Hunder, 7-2 Ziggy is Viela, 7-1 H.Bash, 8-1 Welconse Lu, 18-1 Peop O Day, 12-1 Speculative, Staten Musec, 14-1 Others

3.20 EBF PROSPECT HILL MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,550 added 2YO 5f

CLASS D) \$4,550 added 2YO 5f

0 ARSTAND (AS) NEW J FARTSON 9C J FORENS 5

0 ASSTAND (AS) NEW J FARTSON 9C J FORENS 5

0 BEST OF OUR DAYS (13) C FORENS 2 E JORGON 9

0 MOUSE ON FREE (14) 15 FORENS 2 E JORGON 9

0 MOUSE ON FREE (14) 15 FORENS 2 T LUNGS (15) C FORENS 2 T L

= 10 declared = BETTING: 8-13 Brownes Hill Lad. 13-2 Hoccas de Fer. 7-1 Kapco, 10-1 War Felot. Just Jamaice, 12-1 Ficcey. 15-1 Bank Avenue, 25-1 Others

2.20 ARTHUR ELLIOTT MEMORIAL NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) \$4,200 added 2m 3f BOOGHO 27T 37

331F STORM RUN (230) F Names 7 T 3 Namely
5327 MOZEMO (18) (23) Y Pre 7 T 4 A P McCoy
333 FRENCH BUCK (346 Y Nation Care 7 T 3 C University
500P ROSSELL (\$140 Y Nation Care 7 T 3 C University
500P ROSSELL (\$140 Y Nation Care 7 T 3 C University
500P ROSSELL (\$140 Y Nation Care 7 T 3 C University
500P ROSSELL (\$140 Y Nation Care 7 T 3 C University
500P ROSSELL (\$140 Y 1 C University C Univers Movement weight 10% into information of the American Point St. No. 8 (10% Americans) St. No. 8 (

2.55 FOWNHOPE SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2.400 added 2m 3f 110yds PG-27 MY HARVINSKI (511 (0) : _ JPS : " 4 _ Mins & J Jones (7)

2.45 PLODMIRE WOOD APPRENTICE : TOOL OCHETSIO (FR (CD) N TIMES 498 LC Charact 17
1200 OCHETSIO (FR (CD) N TIMES 498 LC Charact 17
1200 PALACEGATE TOUCH (21) (CD) J Serry 193
C Lowfror (5) 3 C Lowfror (5) 3 F P Fessoy (3) 4 8 PESCO PALACEGATE TOUCH (21) (CO) JECTY 7 93
9 PASCO BALLYMOTE (16) (ID) JECTY 397 PFESCOY (I) 4
10 20000 PRIDE OF BRETTON (17) (ID) C Tronton 4 91
11 20000 PRIDE OF BRETTON (17) (ID) C Tronton 4 91
12 DOAGO BEAL VERTINES (9) (IV) 8 MOSTON 4 91 M TOUCH 15 8
12 DOAGO BEAL VERTINES (9) (IV) 8 POINTS 9 8 TO DOAGONEY (IV) 8
13 STACK SELL VERTINES (10) (IV) C Smith 45 J Res 13 9
14 OCAT PLEASURE TIME (9) (IV) STACK 33 8 J WARD 15 9
15 STACK SELL TREAM REPLIES COSKON (IV) CONTON 45 1 A MICHOS (1) 14
16 COSTO BELLEVINE (21) (ID) D MOSTON 5 T C A MICHOS (1) 14
17 40000 POINT (10) IV (IV) (IV) D MOSTON 5 T C A MICHOS (1) 14
18 TOUCH POLICY (IV) (ID) D MOSTON 5 T C A MICHOS (1) 14
19 COSTO FLURIS MARRIED (ID) D MOSTON 5 T C A MICHOS (1) 14
19 COSTO FLURIS MARRIED (ID) M CONTON 5 T C F North 1 1
20 CASTON FRENT TO PLEASE (169) (ID) J POINTS 3 T C F North 1 1
21 CASTON FRENT TO PLEASE (169) (ID) J POINTS 3 T C F NORTH 1 1
22 DOACO RES TO PLEASE (169) (ID) J POINTS 3 T C F NORTH 1 1
23 CASTON FRENT TO PLEASE (169) (ID) J POINTS 3 T C F NORTH 1 1
24 CASTON FRENT TO PLEASE (169) (ID) J POINTS 3 T C F NORTH 1 1
25 CASTON FRENT TO PLEASE (169) (ID) J POINTS 3 T C F NORTH 1 1
26 CASTON FRENT TO PLEASE (169) (ID) J POINTS 3 T C F NORTH 1 1
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28 CASTON FRENT TO PLEASE (169) (ID) J POINTS 3 T C F NORTH 1 1
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21 CASTON FRENT TO PLEASE (169) (ID) J POINTS 3 T C F NORTH 1 1
22 CASTON FRENT TO PLEASE (169) (ID) J POINTS 3 T C F NORTH 1 1
23 CASTON FRENT TO PLEASE (169) (ID) Tot 30 Feet To Frame 13 Feb. BETTING: 5-1 Donatural Air, 7-1 Kirs, 8-1 Squire Corrie, Just Bob, Postly Gologhily, 10-1 Pleasure Time, Passumatti, 12-1 others 4.25 THIEVES GILL LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 1m 51 175yds F) C3,300 BOBG TITI 51 175yds

TOST REX MUNCL (11) F Extra 592

Q446 BRECON (11) W War 494

Q504 TAUFAN BOY (13) P Hart 434

C4 LOWNER (5)7

Date Glasses A Cark 12

C4C UNCLE DOUG (27) Mr. W Foreign 594

A Cark 12

C4C UNCLE DOUG (27) Mr. W Foreign 594

A Cark 12

C4C UNCLE DOUG (27) Mr. W Foreign 597

C5C GROSE OF GLEWN (16) (20) B Philos 597

C5C GROSE A LOWER (1376) C Kety 891

C5C GROSE A LOWER (1376) C Kety 89

9 00030 HAYANA HELOHIS (11) (CD) 11 5 pro 5 15 Buckley (7) 8
0 6-902 DREFT (16) 5 40 Procural 3.6 9 C Dutheld 11
0000 SEFT ON BLAKE (42) M Broghes 3.8 3
12 ASTO SUM ALERT (25) (D) 14 Produce 3.8 3
13 ASTO SUM ART (25) (D) 14 Produce 3.8 3
14 COSC COOR REPUTATION (27) E 140 3.5 5. Paol Eddory 10
15 COSC COOR FED TO (7) E 15 Procured 3.6 Produce 4. Produce (3) 15 Produce 4. Produce 4 2.39.0 BRANDON BROOSE (13) G Constitut 6 to to R Supple Po GOLDLERER ALFE (53) Mar. N Porture 5 to C P Middler (5) - to GRANSTOWN LAKE (190) A Parton 6 to C

23-10 WHISKY MACK (78) (8F) R Hairon 9.3... W.J. O'Connor 1 360031 PRIVATE SEAL (16) (D) G L Moore 9.1 ... A Clerk 8 40021 AFRAN DA (21) (D) B Poliny 8.2 ... J Fortane 3 30 TERRITORY (9) G Levic 8.11 ... Paul Eddony 5 4056 HAPPY DAYS AGAIN (31) (0) (BF) J WILLIAM 8 TO G YOU RARE INDIGO (13) (B) J Berry 8 (0) C Lowther (5) 2 B SETTING: 15-8 Territory, 3-1 Artan De, 4-1 Whishin Mack, 8-1 Private Seel, Happy Days Agen. Rare Indigo 5.25 CLOSE OF PLAY HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 71 CJEPTE SMOKEY FROM CAPLAW (10) (D) J J DNed J 100 fbcs;

CLOWROT (S) 8

C2204 HALDWING (SI) J G Smyth Cabusin: 33 22

ENSA RYMER'S RASCAL (13) (CD) E Asken 50 10

J F Eginn 17

A Mackay 9

GOCO DEPRECIATE (45) (D) 6 D Abron 50 10

A Mackay 9

GOCO DEPRECIATE (45) C James 4 9 6

T Lucias 15

GEBETT VALE (45) (D) 6 D Abron 50 10

MW Wighton 1

F Horton 10

GOCO STYLISH WAYS (R) J Petros 59 7

GEBOTH 8

F HORTON 10

F HORTON 10

COLON ANTONIAS MELLODY (SI) (D) S Bowing 4 9 6

TOLICE KASS ALHAWA (9) (CD) D COROTUS 4 9 5

TOLICE KASS ALHAWA (9) (CD) D COROTUS 4 9 5

TOLICE KASS ALHAWA (9) (CD) D COROTUS 4 9 5

WISTOLE ARI (10) (CD) E Wymros 39 2 P Fessor (3) 18

ACCIDE MESCATANA (10) (CD) (E) R MS 100 ... Peul Edding 4

SAMOO GISST PRINCESS (21) (CD) M W Enskrity 3 8 II

SPARKIN (3) 7

-5005 BARRACK YARO (27) (D) (BP) A Senici 4 8 9

Malbareth 12 CATALL SMOKEY FROM CAPLAW (10) (D) J J DTHAS J 100 (604)

a brobtag looked every melt a Champion Hurdle comender when Partitiong Learnite mod Taparary resteriby Backed from 2-1 in 6-Octobe the eff to occasione lesting conditions. Audin Cliffical solutions of the production of the partition of the second for the partition of t

Easy Listening

GOING: Good

Right-hand course with 300yd nun-in.

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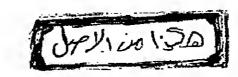
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FOOTBALL

Violence by **Boro fans** condemned

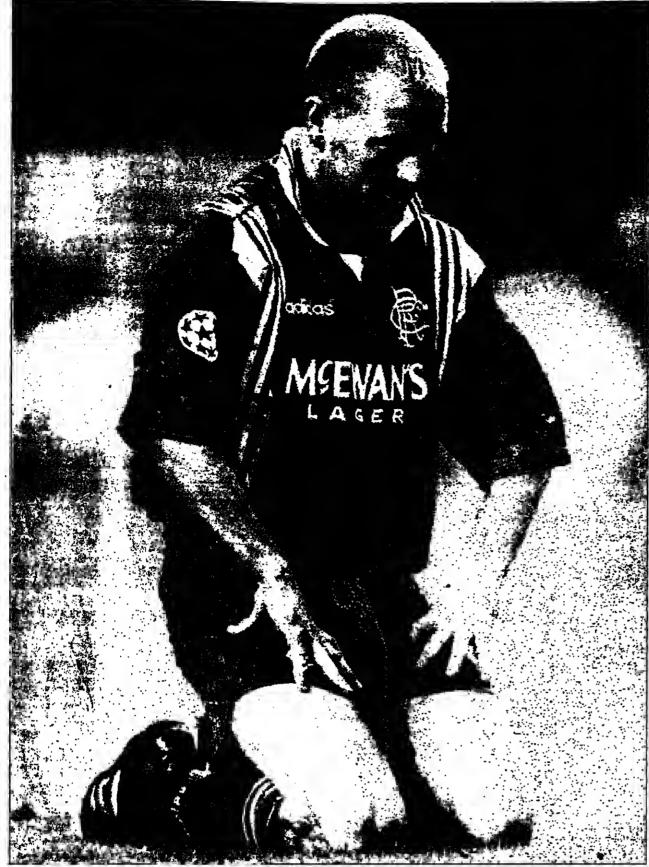
Sunderland's chief executive, John Fickling, has criticised Middlesbrough fans who atlacked the Sunderland team coach after Wednesday's Coca-Cola Cup third-round tie at the Riverside Stadium.

As the Sunderland coach approached the A19 out of town it was attacked with stones and lumps of concrete, which left many windows and the windscreen of the coach shattered Fickling said: "We are very, very shocked at the violence and magnitude of the attack on the Sunderland team bus last night. Someone could very easily been seriously injured."

Middleshrough won the North-east derby 2-0 and now face Bolton Wanderers at home in the next round.

Giantuca Vialli has vowed never to lose his control again after his first red card in English football. Chelsea's veteran Italian striker lashed out with his clbow against Blackburn's Swiss defender, Stéphane Hen-choz, during Wednesday's Coca-Cola tie at Stamford Bridge. Despite finishing with 10 men, Chelsea won 4-1 on penalties after a I-1 draw, "I deserved to go," Vialli said. "I used my elbows and that is not acceptable. At my age I should know better, and it will not happen again. Now f have to wait to see what my punishment is."

Ruud Gullit, Chelsea's player-manager, has ruled out an immediate move into the transfer market to replace Gustavo Poyet, the Uruguayan midfielder who will miss the rest of the season after snapping his cruciate ligaments on Wednesday. "I have a hig squad and loads of players coming back from injury, so I still have enough options," he said. COCA-COLA CUP Fourth-round of Leeds v Reading, Middlesbrough v Br



Back on his feet: Paul Gascoigne's display against Italy has alerted Premiership clubs

Two sides to the Gascoigne story

Paul Gascoigne could be on his way back south of the border. Phil Show questions whether the England midfielder could still hack it consistently in the Premiership.

Paul Gascoigne's display in Rome last Saturday clearly revived Premiership interest in the man-child who was once the English game's most coveted talent. It may not be too cynical to suggest that it also presented a window of opportunity for Rangers to recoup their money on a player whose impact has been less than Olympian this season.

The admission by Rangers' chairman, David Murray, that they could be ready to listen to offers provided coded confirmation that the Scottish champions have decided the moment is right to sell Gascoigne.

South of the border, however, his stock is higher than at any time since his last game for an English club. That was the 1991 FA Cup final, in which his contribution to Tottenham's success was curtailed by a serious injury sustained in the act of scything into a Nottingham Forest player.

The evidence of his most recent visit to Wembley, for the 4-0 rout of Moldova, and of the crucial draw with Italy which followed suggested the 30year-old Geordie was back to, or at least approaching, his

A more wide-ranging appraisal indicates that Aston Villa, Spurs, Crystal Palace and other potential purchasers might be playing with fire in a firework factory. Now in his third season with Rangers, having extended his contract during the summer, Gascoigne has failed to exert the influence that marked his first two years and remains troubled by temperamental problems.

When he arrived in Glasgow for £4.2m in 1995, following two fitful campaigns with Lazio, there were question marks against his ability to maintain his physical and mental well-being in the frenzied, attritional Scottish game. The behavioural blips have been mostly minor, such as the time he butted an opponent in the stomach or brandished the yellow card at the referee.

If the beating he inflicted on his wife, Sheryl, was symptomatic of a much darker malaise, the penultimate game of his first Rangers campaign offered compelling evidence as to why the club were prepared to stand by their man. Gascoigne scored a stunning hat-trick against Aberdeen to clinch the title; for an institution obsessed with equalling Celtic's nine consecutive championships, such feats

overrode other considerations. Including, it seemed, Rangers' wretched showing in Europe. In that first year at lbrox, when he could not inspire his new team to a single victory in six Champions' League fixtures, Gascoigne was sent off at Dortmund Last year, when they won one and lost five, he took an even earlier bath in Amsterdam against Ajax.

This season, as they contrived to get knocked out of two Continental cups in a month, he came perilously close to an unenviable hat-trick. A reckless tackle on a Gothenhurg player had the referee reaching for red, only to have second thoughts as Gascoigne helped up his victim.

Nor has he imposed himself on the domestic front in the way Murray and his manager, Walter Smith, might have hoped during the absence through illness of Rangers' one truly world-class player, Michael Laudrup. Only once, when he scored with an exquisite curling free-kick to help turn a

3-1 deficit into a 4-3 win at Hibernian, has his input borne out the impression he made against little Moldova.

Whether Rangers really wanted to tie him to the chil or were seeking to insure against his leaving as a free agent next year under the Bosman ruling must now be open to question. Of course it could be that he is no longerstimulated by the Scottish scene; John Collins and Pierre van Hooijdonk are among those who have left complaining about the boredom factor in playing certain clubs as many as five or six times a season.

Amid all the midfield drones in modern-day foothall, an old-fashioned playmaker who can pass a ball as accurately and imaginatively as he can should always be an asset. More to the point, his ... mentor figure. Glenn Hoddle, has reputedly advised him to re-turn in order to hone his act for next year's World Cup finals

But there must be some doubt as to whether Gascoigne. even in his new slim-line image, could hack it consistently in the foreigner-enhanced Premiership. In the four high-intensity club games he played prior to Rome, against IFK Gothenburg and Strasbourg, he was unable to impose his skills.

Instead of enhancing his claims to play alongside Paul ; Ince and David Batty at the heart of the national side, exposure to the greater depth of quality in England could arguably undermine them.

And if it is so hard for Gas coigne to live in Scotland with the tabloid intrusion of which he often complains, a trille richly, it will be intriguing to see how those who are willing to pay Rangers' £4m asking price plus a king's ransom in wages propose to protect him from the paparazzi in the capital or the

NON-LEAGUE NOTEBOOK

Financial crisis threatens Hereford's future

When Hereford United were relegated from the Football League in May, they were hoping to follow in the hootsteps of Lincoln City and Colchester United, who both won promotion from the GM Vauxhall Conference at the first attempt.

Instead, to their fans' horror, they are in danger of emulating Newport County, who suffered a financial collapse following the drop out of the League in 1988 and were unable to complete their first season in the "fifth division."

A fans' forum this week was shocked to be told that players and administrative staff had not been paid for a month. Last night the supporters were given the chance to help United, when another public meeting was held to try to secure

financial support for the beleaguered Edgar Street club.

Peter Hill, the Hereford chairman, has blamed a number of factors for his cluh's plight. "At the end of last season we knew we needed to find hetween £750,000 and £900,000," he said yesterday.

"Then we discovered that were getting only 50 per cent of the Football League's television money - we were expecting 100 per cent in our first season outside the League. Then a transfer tribunal priced Dean Smith at £42,500 - we were expecting at least £150,000 from Leyton Orient. Then the bank reduced

our overdraft limit." It got worse. Hereford need an average gate of 5,000 to hreak even - and crowds are down to 2,000. "There are no

Al Fayeds here," Hill said. "I'm just a normal football director."

Hereford hope to move to a new stadium by the end of the century, but they will not net all the proceeds of the sale of Edgar Street because the ground is council-owned. They have, however, had a loan of £500,000 to keep them going from the property developers Bristol Stadium Group, from whom they are now seeking a further loan. Their bank has also agreed to pay the wage bill this week.

> Hereford still intend to maintain a full-time playing staff this term, and Smith is hoping to bring up to five new directors on hoard soon. "There is some light at the end of the tunnel," he said.

I should have told the fans why Heft, says Keegan

Kevin Keegan says his greatest regret about leaving Tyneside was that he never told the

Demick Whyte heard Newcastle's former manager talk yesterday about life at St James'

When Kevin Keegan left Newcastle in January his only explanation came in a hrief statement in which he said that he had taken the club as far as he felt he could.

It has since emerged, however, that the former England striker, now Fulham's chief operating officer, felt forced out

by the money men who gave him an ultimatum to sign a new two-year deal or leave the club.

Yesterday, speaking at the official launch of his autobiography, Keegan admitted he wished he had handled his departure better. In particular he regretted not having told the club's supporters why he was walking out.

"Looking back I maybe should have done what I did when f quit the club as a player hack in the 1980s," he said. "Then we announced that I was going on my hirthday in February and that I would retire at the end of the season. That was the way we handled things then. We didn't keep it quiet but opened everything up to the

"As a manager I did it when we sold Andy Cole. I went down the steps to tell them why we were selling him when we could have sneaked out the back door. I just wish that I had done that and let them know in advance that I was going to go at

the end of the season. "Then I could have helped in finding the new manager, although Kenny Dalglish would have been my first choice by a million miles in any case. But I do regret what happened."

Keegan added that the response from Newcastle fans since the serialisation of his book had been overwhelmingly positive. "Most of them have written

to me thanking me for the joh I did and wishing me good luck aı Fulham," Keegan said.

"That's the response I expected because they know how bard we worked as a team to hring the club to where we left it. When f came in and brought Terry McDermott in with me, it really was a sleeping giant, on the verge of relegation.

"Sir John Hall said the club would probably fold if we wen! down, although I don't think the fans would have allowed that. But we took it on from there and went on to challenge the best clubs in the Premiership and hrought in players the fans would only have dreamed of having.

However Keegan's relationship with Sir John appears to have been fatally breached by his departure.

I spoke to him once, on the phone, six weeks after I left and he said we'd go out for a meal when f came back home," said Keegan, who went to Florida in the days after he left St James'.

"But he's never got back in touch. We haven't fallen out though - you can't fall out with somebody you never talk to."

Meanwhile, the Newcastle striker Ian Rush is back on the goals trail - something which might worry his former club Leeds when the Magpies visit Elland Road tomorrow.

The Welsh international striker, who scored his first goal for Newcastle against Hull City in the Coca-Cola Cup on Wednesday, would love to score again at the weekend to celebrate next Monday's 36th birthday, but he said: "I have & nothing to prove to them. And now after finally opening my ac count for Newcastle the pressure is off, and I can really look forward to going back."

"Kevin Keegan - My Autobiography" (Lit-

End in sight to

The 24-year war between the

governing bodies running pro-

fessional and amateur rugby

league in Britain finally showed

racked the sport since amateur

officials broke away to set up the

British Amateur Rugby league

Association (Barla) in 1973 was

The first step lowards re-

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unification was taken when Sir

cast aside at a historic meeting

at the Posthouse Hotel in Brig-

house, West Yorkshire.

Bitter wrangling that has

signs of ending yesterday.

great divide

BASEBALL

Cleveland clinch upset

The Cleveland Indians, the team most thought would be a soft touch in the post-season, are heading to the World Series for the second time in three years. The Indians made it to the Series against the Florida Marlins by beating the Baltimore Orioles, 1-0, on an 11thinning home run by Tony Fernandez on Wednesday.

The closeness of the contest was typical of the American League Championship Series series, which Cleveland captured 4-2, the margin of victory in each game being one run.

Fernandez was the latest in a string of play-off heroes for the Indians, but he played only because he accidentally hit the regular second baseman, Bip Roberts, on the hand in practice, forcing him to pull out.

ft proved to have been a happy accident when Fernandez hit a two-out home run off Armando Benitez in the top of the 11th inning for the game's only run. "I just tried to drive the ball, and I got it into the right place in the park," he said.

The World Senes begins in Miami on Saturday.

British sides' failure adds to sense of meaninglessness for WCC

world that is playing no part in the final of the Visa World Club Championship in Auckland today. Dave Hodfield looks at the ramifications of the lack of any British involvement in what was

There is a part of the

conceived as one of international rugby league's big events.

My friends in New Zealand thought it was some sort of elaborate hoax when I told them I was still coming here for the final of the World Club Championship.

"Strewth," said one, "that means there's one more person interested in it in Britain than there is here." That is a slight exaggeration, but this morning's climax of the competition has hardly set pulses racing, either in New Zealand or in Australia, the home base of the two finalists. There was not, for instance, a single word about it in either of Sydney's main daily papers - one of them

Murdoch-owned - yesterday. It would have been different in New Zealand if the Auckland Warriors had made it to the final, as they almost did in a stirring semi in Brisbane. But the thing that has fatally weakened the credibility of the competition from the start has been the failure of British teams to It is fair to say that the rep-

utation of the British game has never been lower in the southern hemisphere. You can guarantee a good laugh in bars in Sydney or Auckland by merely mentioning the names of some our leading club sides.

The strange thing is that there has not been a commensurate rise in the standing of Super League in Australasia. We might be greatly impressed by what Brisbane, Cronulla and the rest have done to our best sides, but it cuts little ice here. Victories in the WCC are seen as cheap and meaningless and certainly not as constituting an argument for the viability of Australian Super League as a

stand-alone entity. Yet both semi-finals, although sparsely attended, were gripping contests. In addition, there is the compelling story of the Hunter Mariners, the rugby league played to a high doomed club that has somehow reached today's final, and their success comes close to finding a justification for the whole affair. If Australians love a battler, then they should have taken the Mariners to their hearts. So deep is the disillusionment running through the game, however, that their achievement remains generally unrecorded.

If the competition has been disappointment in the southern hemisphere, it has been little short of a disaster in the north. No less a drum beater than the Rugby League's chief executive. Maurice Lindsay, has admitted that it has damaged the game's credibility in a way that vill not be easy to repair.

The problem is this. We have been assured so often that the combined effect of Super League, summer rugby and full-time professionalism has raised standards behind recognition that most people believed it. Then along comes the WCC, which to put it at its most charitable, throws that contention into severe doubt.

There are people who were happily going to domestic matches before the WCC, be-

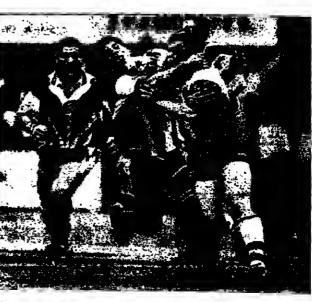
level, but who have stopped going, realising now that what they were seeing was entertaining hut inferior. One of the most depressing

aspects of the whole business has been the way that Australian players and coaches who know better have continually parroted the party line that the game in Britain has leapt ahead. The hard evidence says otherwise and that is something that has all manner of consequences.

It was no coincidence that News Corporation began their rumhlings about how their money was being spent immediately after the group stages of the WCC had drawn attention to the true state of affairs.

And now, of course, blame has to be laid. Lindsay has placed it squarely on the shoulders of British players, accusing them of not being as professional or dedicated as

their Australian counterparts. There is some truth in this. The way that too many players are full-time professionals in name only showed in the embarrassing lack of appetite and application in some matches. But who has been better placed lieving that they were seeing than Lindsay over the last few



Auckland's Stephen Kearney grapples with St Helens' Keiron Cunningham at Knowsley Road in June Photograph: Allsport

years to see the warning signs and act on them?

That process has now begun, notably through Joe Lydon's recommendations, which, if followed in spirit as well as the letter, should restore some of the hunger to British domestic competition.

If standards can be raised sufficiently, there is still the germ

of a good idea in the débacle of

the WCC. As a top four play-off,

involving the best of British

and the leading sides from a uni-

fied Australian competition, it

would have hopes of becoming

a annual highlight. In the mean-

time, the general indifference to

events in Auckland today is the

price to be paid for the British

failure to meet the challenge.

Rodney Walker, chairman of the Rugby Football League and his Baria counterpart, Mike Morrissey, put their signatures to a partnership agreement set-

ting up a Joint Policy Board. Sir Rodney will chair the new board, which will comprise five members of Baria and an " equal number of RFL representatives.

Bradford Bulls prop Brian McDermott has been called into the Great Britain squad for next month's British Gas Test series against Australia. The 27year-old front-row forward has been added following the refusal of Western Suburbs to release former Leeds and Widges forward Harvey Howard.

Quins make domestic title top priority

Harlequins' defeat at Munster in rugby union's Heineken Cup last week raised spectres of the past, when sides rarely strung together consistent performances, but their director of coaching. Andy Keast, says those ghosts have been exorcised, as David Llewellyn heard.

Den Table Selection

- - : n_a.

Orto Day

ues

credit

It has been an unhappy week for Harlequins. They found nothing amusing in Limerick where Munster upset their rhythm and consigned the Cosmopolitans to second place in their Heineken European Cup pool, thereby denying them valuable home advantage in the quarter-finals.

When the draw was made, bas became worse - Toulouse. the European and French champions, whose season is just getting into gear. On their home turf at Les Sept-Deniers they may not be invincible -Leicester have proved that already this season - but they will

not roll over. "We will be going there intending to carry on trying to play the kind of rugby we have been working at," said Andy Keast, their astute director of rugby. "If we can't beat them playing the style of rugby that suits us, then we will never beat them."

At least Harlequins have Tome breathing space as far as European competition is coocerned. This weekend English clubs resume their interrupted domestic campaign in the cauldron of intensity that is the Allied Dunbar Premiership, and Keast insists that the Premiership is where their ambitions lie.

His statement that "Europe was never a goal of ours, it was merely something we used as a stage to practise and create a certain type of play for us to take into the lea something to help it down, so cess of Harlequins' whole seahard is it to swallow.

HOCKEY

no frills man, a straight talker, and the claim makes more sense when juxtaposed with what he has to say about the league. "We would like to get some consistency in the Allied Dunhar Premiership. That is what we are striving for. Because of that there was no pressure on the players in the Heineken Cup, although it is.

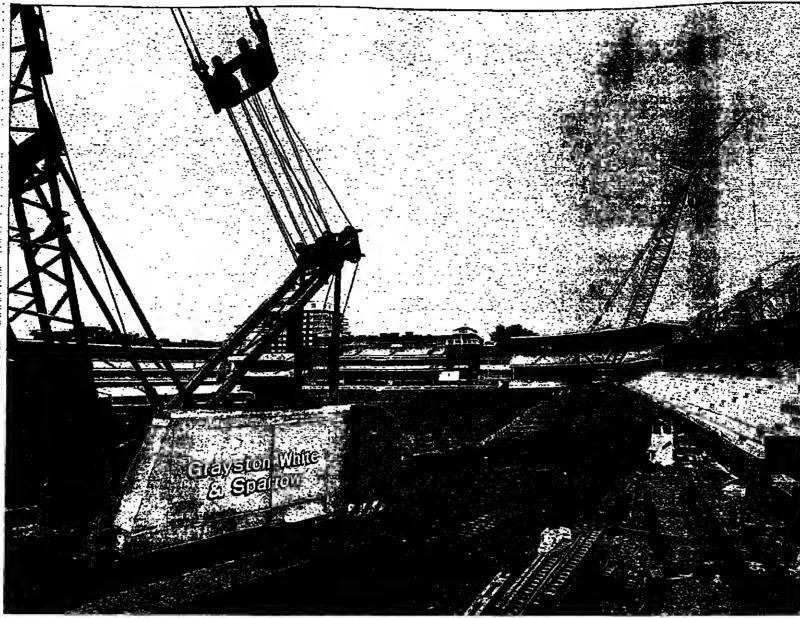
good to be in the quarter-final." Unfortunately, it does not get any better for Quins. They may only have to travel a short distance up the Chertsey Road to tackle Richmond, but they must do so without key players. Their goal-kicker supreme, Thierry Lacroix, flanker Laurent Cabannes and the powerful prop Massimo Cuttitta will be absent, on duty for France and Italy in the Latin Cup, which will keep them out next weekend as well when Quins face Sale at The Stoop.

Keast, though, is not unduly worried. "The guys I have in mind to bring in to the side are up to the joh," he said. "I have no worries. They may not be high profile stars or household names but they are still very talented players."

He does admit though that both those matches represent a critical period if Harlequins are to emerge as front runners in the Premiership. "Ideally we have to win both games, and we are quite capable of that," he acknowledged, "but it won't he the end of our season if we lose either or both. Munster was one bad week. Until then we had got into the winning habit."

The side will not be announced until tomorrow, but the likely lads include Rob Liley, a possible replacement for Lacroix, or his squad rival Paul Challinor, the back row specialist Gareth Allison, an aggressive, skilful player who may well stand in for the brilliant Cabannes, and, in the front row, the Fijian Daniel Rouse, who holds an English passport, or Altan Ozdemir.

This home guard, as it were, son could stand or fall on their But the 35-year-old Devon-gan is no glib rap artist. He is a of their foreign legion.



The changing face of cricket's headquarters: building work continued (above) at Lord's yesterday on the new Grand Stand. When the structure is completed (artist's Impression, below right) it will add 2,000 to the ground's overall capacity. The new media centre (below left) will eventually provide facilities for 240 broadcasters and journalists. It will be completed in time for the 1999 World Cup Main photograph: Tommy Hindley

Future begins to take shape at Lord's

Construction work on an impressive replacement for the Grand Stand and a futuristic media centre has reduced Lord's, the spiritual home of cricket, to a building site

The projects will complete the current phase of development, as Jon Culley discovered.

once again.

The approach of the 21st century has reduced Lord's, the 210-year-old spiritual home of cricket, to the status of a huild-

With the simultaneous construction of a futuristic media centre and of a replacement for the old Grand Stand - opposite the Mound Stand - the ground has, not for the first time, been taken over by diggers, trucks and cranes, many of which will remain on the premises for much of the oext 12 months.

The framework of the new

now, advancing the £13.5m project towards completion by next June's Test match against South Africa. At more than double the cost of the impressive Mound, which was opened for the Bicentenary celebrations 10 years ago, the stand will house 6,500 spectators, adding 2,000 to the venue's overall capacity. It will, in time, henefit

from a roof. The media centre, early illustrations of which resembled to some a spaceship and to oth-

structure's second tier is visible ers a giant metal gherkin, will appear piece by piece at the Nursery End during the course of next summer.

The first building in the world, it is believed, to be made largely of aluminium, the £4m capsule is being assembled in a shipyard in Falmouth and will arrive at Lord's in sections, transported by lorry. Once complete - in time for the 1999 World Cup - it will provide a vantage point for 240 broadcasters and journalists, compared with the 100 who can is finally cleared up."

be accommodated in the existing press box. The NatWest hank is giving £2.6m towards the new centre, which will hear

An MCC spokesman, Chris Rea, said: "After the ECB [England Cricket Board] offices, the indoor school and the new shop, these projects will complete the current phase of development.

"We've got construction vehicles taking up much of the mursery and part of the outfield. It will be a relief when the place

Pakistan may pick three spinners

The second Test match between Pakistan and South Africa is likely to be dominated by spin. Henry Blofeld, reporting from Lahore, says the prospects of a victory for either side look slim.

By a strange coincidence Test cricket returns to the small but cosy ground at Sheikhupura. 20 miles out in the Lahore suburbs. on identical dates to its inaugural match 12 months ago, when Pakistan played Zimbabwe. Sadly, the pitch looks as if it will be as lifeless and boring as that in Rawalpindi, where the First Test ended last week in a draw.

It will not therefore be quite the blow it might have been to both Pakistan and South Africa that the leading fast bowler on either side. Allan Donald and Waqar Younis, are unlikely to

Donald has already been ruled out with a sore quadrucep muscle in his left thigh while Waqar is nursing a painful left heel. To set against this Pakistan have chosen Wasim Akram -Saeed Anwar will still captain the side - who has been out with his shoulder for six months, but this is seen more as a rehabilitation match for him and it is unlikely that he will bowl flat-out.

The most significant selection has been Pakistan's inclusion of 23-year-old leg spinner, Ali Rizvi, and one gathers it is their intention to play all three

Rizvi took 11 wickets against South Africa for the Pakistan Board XI in their first match of the tour in Karachi. Rizvi, who by all accounts gives the ball quite a flip, is likely to come in for Waqar while Wasim will take the place of either Mohammad Wasim or Mohammad Ramzan.

For South Africa, Donald's place seems certain to go to the all-rounder, Lance Klusener, who bowls right handed and bats left, while the spinner Paul Adams will come in for the seamer Brett Schultz, who has own home with a shoulder injury. One other change may be forced on South Africa as David Richardson, their 38-year-old wicket-keeper, has a hamstring problem. Just in case, the South Africans have already flown in Mark Boucher, a 20-year-old who plays for Border.

From the look of the pitch. the bookies would not want to offer worthwhile odds against a draw. That was the result a year ago in a match made remarkable by Wasim Akram's batting. Pakistan were still 37 for 7 in reply to Zimbabwe's 375 when Wasim who finished with 257 not out, and Saglain Mushtaq, 79, put on a record 313 for the eighth wicket - a partnership which also tells a depressing but all too familiar story





SPORTING DIGEST

England hit by injuries

Amjerican football The England Monarchs have elected to play one of their five 1986 home gemes at Birminghams Alexander Stadum. Ti was are at Crystal Palace and

Olympic silver medallists,

South Korea, at Milton Keynes

National Stadium on 30 Octo-

Mould, who is recovering from

They will be without Jo

ger and I November.

Badminuon

Cricket ivo Kenyans, Thomas Odovo and 13ny Not tempars, intomes coope and 1 my Suit shared a record stand but their side tost to Zimbalowe by seven wick-ets in the President's Cup tri-netions tournament in Nairobi yeslenday. Odoyo (41) and Suit (67) put on 182 a one-day international best for the seventh wick-tive all countries.

Salar State of

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et for all countries.

PRESIDENT'S CUP TRI-NATIONS TOUR-NAMENT (Nairob): Karne 20 for 9 50 oers); Zirdabne 20 for 3 (412 overs). Zirdabne wechtes. of for all countries. wers); <u>Zimina</u>bwe 210 for 3 Nabwe were by seven wici babwa won by seven vertices.
SHETTED, SHIELD (Bacond day offices) Brishams, New South White 464 (9) A Taylor 124, M of Beach 153, M Skapnowicz 159-47, Comanismor 159-50, Domini-Indian (15) Dr. Harden 750-2, M L. Hayden 750-2, M L. Lew Szroj. Sudelacide: Taylorama 301 (M J Dr. Harden 88, S Wang 56, P Waton 159-47, South Australia 336 for 810 S Lehmann 131, J D Siddone 91).

Football stacitum, Washington DC, on 26 October.
WEDNESBAY'S LATE RESULTS: Coca-Cola
Cup Tibled round: Chelsea 1 Blackburn 1 (efter extre sizus; Chelsea won 4-1 on paralities);
Couentry 4 Eventon 1; Middicebrough 2 Sundarfard d; Navocaste 2 Huil City 0; Stofe 1 Lauds
3 (est); Totamphern 1 Darby 2; West Bromwich
0 Liverpool 2; West Hern 3 Aston Villa 0, Soottish Coca-Cola Cup sensi-final; Abstriaen 1
Duralice United 3, Uefa Cup First round second leg replay; Spartak Moscow 5 Son (Swit)
1 (Spartak Moscow with 6-1 on accreance and Marina 1: Croydon 2 Bognor Regis Ibwn 2 (ast; Bognorselv 3-1 on pamilies). Unificand Lasgue Premier Divisione Bishop Auctiond 4-Fockley 1: Garastockugh 0 Gelselv 1; Flest Divisione Brad-ond PA 0 Emitwood Bosen 1 Dr. Martene Leegue Southern Divisione Baddook 2 Witney 3: Deri-land 1 Marysis 0; Newport AFC 1 Weston-su-per-later 2. Michland Division: RC Warnelot 8 Paget Rangers 0; Raundis 0 VS Rugby 2; Soli-hulf 3 Moor Green 2. Institution 1. Lasgue Talrd Division: Harlow 2 Wingers 6; Finchley 2; Ha-low 2 Wingets 6; Finchley 2 Usiget Susselx Country Lasgue Flest Olivation: Assectic

FIXTURES .

Football

7,30 unless stated

SECOND DIVISION Bristol City v York (7.45)

Rangers v Bilston (7.45).

Stigo Rovers (745).

Rugby Union

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FA UMBRO TROPHY First qualitying round: Moor Green v Atherstone; Paget

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES

EAGUE Premier Division: Stewarts &

Lloyds Corby v Mirriees Blackstone.

HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRE-

LAND Premier Division: Drogheda v Sharrock Rovers (7.45); Shabourne v

SCOTTISH INTER-DISTRICT CHAMP-IONSHIP: Scottish Borders v Caledonia (70) (at Riverside, Jedburgh).

ice hockey

Backethall

Speedway

Other sports

CRAVEN SHIELD First round on Balle Vise (30) v Swindon (60).

BEHSON AND HEDGES CUP Quarter-fi-ral first lag: Shelfold Steelers v Cardiff Dev-ile (730).

BUDWESSER LEAGUE: Manchester Gents v Consumit Crystal Palace (730); ITT L&E Worthing Bears v Addes Greater London

YOUNG SHELD Semi-Bond first legs Ed-interior v Long Easter

INDIVIDUAL: Beset Amor Chempionship (EO) (at Arena Esser).

GOLF: Atted Durnil Cup (St Anthons). TENNES: LIA Women's Challenger (South-ampion) ALPRED DUNHELL CUP (St Andrews):
Group 1: England 3 Jepan 9 (R Caydon 70 bt N Watarabe 71, L Westwood 70 bt N Sato 73, M Jemes 73 bt S Hogad 76; United States 2 Argentina 1 (M O Mean 67 bt E Romero 67 at 19th, B Passon 72 lost to E Romero 67 at 19th, B Passon 72 lost to A Cabrera 63; Jeonard 65 bt J Coceres 72; Group 2: Sweden 3 Tahwan 0 (J Heepgman 72 bt Heigh Yu-shu 72 at 19th, J Parnawk 66 bt Lu Heighton 78; Pul Johansson 71 bt Chen Limpher 76; Australia 1 France 2 (R Alerby 71 lost to F Termad 70, S Ellington 71 lost to J Van de Velde 71 at 19th, S Appleby 68 bt M Pany 77), Group 1 at 19th, S Appleby 68 bt M Pany 77), Group 1 at 19th, S Appleby 68 bt M Pany 77), Group 1 at 19th, S Appleby 68 bt M Pany 77), Group 1 at 19th, S Appleby 68 bt M Pany 77), Group 7 bt P McGinley 71, Il Prost 69 lost to F Herrington 67 E Els 68 bt I Caste 71; Scotland 2 Germany 1 (R Russel 68 bt I Goglet 74, G Bend J Tr 69 lost to A Ceja 68, C Montgomer 67 bt S Struer 73, Group 4; Zimbabwe 2 South Kores 1 (N Price 72 bt Kim Jong-duck 74, M McMuthy 69 bt Mo Joong-kyung 78, T Johnstone 78 lost to Kang Wooksoon 73 at 19th); Zimbabwe 2 South Kores 1 (N Price 72 bt Kim Jong-duck 74, M McMuthy 69 bt Mo Joong-kyung 78, T Johnstone 73 lost to Kang Wooksoon 73 at 19th).

Tommy Horton seeks his sixth title of the seeks at 19 by 19 be 19 by 1 Tommy Horton seeks his sixth title of the season when the Senior Tourna-

TODAY'S NUMBER

The number of Rayo Vallecano players sent off in Wednesday's Spanish Second Division football match at Lleida. The match was declared over, in accordance with the rule book, when Rayo were reduced to six men after a player went off injured in the 86th minute. Lleida won 3-1

ment of Champions starts today at The Buckinghamehire Club. Horton is already established as the Order of Ment winner for the second succes-sive year with a record £138,427 prize money.

prize money,
BRITAIN AND RELAND TRAINING SOUAD
(Curtis Cup. 29-30 Nov. Ceitic Mamori: F
Brown (Haswal), S Fanagan (Mittouri), R Hadson (Wheetiny), A Laing (Hann') Wat Unberstry), I. Morrison (Astronomy), E Morrison
(Lang schr), R Morrison (Astronomy), E Malendson (Hartof Wagi University), E Pligrim (Ceitic
Manor), E R Power (Oliverny), E Rainiffle
(Sarciway), A Rose (Schrig), K Rostrom
(Climeros), K Strikh (Missinconile), K Stuppless
(Royal Cinque Ports), Reserves: E Fauquimarson Black (Deesde), E Dowdell (Mextord), V Leing (Musselburgh).

Hockey CHAMPIONS' TROPHY MEN'S TOUR-NAMENT (Adelaide): Spain 1 (Amau 25) Paisstan 1 (Kaleen 70); Australia 3 (Davies 8, Gaution 26, Haisine 52) Netherlands 1 (Lo-mans 35). Leading positions: 1 Australia (P4, Ptr 12); 2 Spain (4-7); 3 Germany (4-7).

Ice hockey NHL: Ceroine 3 Buffalo 3 (of): Toronto 4 Detroit 3: Florida 2 Tempa Bay 1; Montre-al 1 Phttsburgh 1 (of): Ottawa 5 New York Pangers 1; Westington 2 Chicago 0; Col-orado 8 Edmonton 2; Boston 5 Los Ange-les 3 Philadelphia 2 Anaheim 2 (of). Rugby League

Lancashire Lynx have named the for-mer New Zealand forward, Kevin Tamati, as their full-time manager. The Preston-based Second Division club are now seeking a replacement for Tamati as coach.

Two Australians, Andrew Schick and two Austrasers, Articlew Scrick and David Chapman, have signed new deals with Castleford. Chapman, 24, who joined Castleford 17 months ago, has been retained for two more sessions with Schild. 27 has acrost sons while Schick, 27, has agreed

Rugby Union Neath have remorated their squad by adding the signature of Saracens' for-mer. Wates. Under-21. full-back, Matthew Evans, to that of the Wates. A forward, Lee Jones, made 24 hours earlier from Cardiff.

Paul Cayard is reveiling in the strong winds and high speeds that have pushed his EF Language Into a 100-mile lead over Grant Deton's Merit Cup, with Knut Frostad's Innovation Kvaemer another 10 miles behind in the Whitbread Race.

WHITEREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE Lance positions: 1 DF Language (491 miles to finish of first lag; 2 Merit Cup. + 155 miles; 3 Innovation (Austruer + 152.3; 4 58; Cut. + 545.5; 5 Cheesie Reung + 455.5; 6 Annorate Challenge + 4506; 7 Tonliks + 6572; 8 Sweden Merch + 17974; 9 EF Education + 8523; 10 Brunel-Suningy + 1048.

Pete Goss, partnered by Raphael Direlli, was just about hanging on In his 50-foot BMW Performance to the five 60-footers ahead of him after the first 1,000 miles of the 4,500-mile doublehanded Jacques Vabre race from Le Havre, France to Cartagena, Colombia.

Snooker

Squash

(Outrawa) Singies, second round: T Maste (Aut) bt P heartus (Neth) 6-3-7-6. M Normer (Swe) bt D Princell (Bar) 6-2 6-4; G Narisavi, (Cros) bt M Damm (Car Rep) wice. B Bruguers (St) bt J Terango (US) 7-6-3-6-6-4; D Nargeo (II) bt P Kords (Car Rep) 4-6-6-2 7-6. WOMEP'S EUROPEAN INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS (Zurich) Singies, second round: L Reymond (US) bt A Coetzer (SA) 7-6-6-3; N Teuzest (Fr) bt II Van Roost (Bei) 6-3-6-7-7-6; L Deveroport (US) bt N Zenerva (Bein) 6-4-2-2 (Zenerve Willichew Jeurench.

LTA WOMEN'S CHALLENGER (Southermous) Singles, second round: D Baraban-schikova (Beis) bt K Cross (66) 6-2 6-1: Woodroffe (66) bt M Schnitzer (Ger) 6-2 6-3: N Nexula (Nug) bt A Cocheleux (Fr) 1-6 6-4 6-1; K Robogert (Melh) bt E Countries (Fr) 1-6 6-4 6-1; E Robogert (Melh) bt E Countries (Fr) 6-2 6-1: E Istericova (Ukr) bt L Countries (Bel) 6-2 7-5; O Logina (Ukr) bt L AM (68) 9-2 7-6; C Logina (Ukr) bt L AM (68) 9-2 7-6; L Centova (Cz Rep) bt 8 Rittner (Ger) 6-4 2-5 7-8.

Weightlifting Two Chinese women weightlifters, Jin. Chunien and Chen Xieomin, have testcolumn and the control of the column case and positive for stimulants at China's Eighth Netional Games in Shanghai. Both have been banned from the Games and could face further sanctions, in yesterday's action Wei Xiangyln set a world record of 292.5kg for two lifts in the 83kg category.

ON WEDNESDAY IT WAS THEM.

Draw date: 15/10/97. The winning numbers: 11, 17, 30, 35, 39, 45. Bonus number: 47. Total Sales: £28,625,076. Prize Fund: £13,288,648 (45% of ticket sales plus £407,364 Superdraw funding).

| CATEGORY | NO. OF WINNERS | AMOUNT FOR
EACH WINNER | TOTAL EACH TIER |
|--|----------------|---|-----------------|
| Match 8 (Jeckpot) | 1 | £5.000,000 | £5,000,000 |
| Match 5 plus bonus bell | 5 | £282,823 | £1,413,115 |
| Match 5 | 316 | £2.794 | £882,9D4 |
| Match 4 | 19,232 | £101 | £1.943,038 |
| Match 3 | 404,929 | £10 | £4.049,290 |
| TOTALS . | 424,489 | | £13,288,347 |
| arnelot Group pic. Players must be 15 or over. | | Breakage (prizes rounded down to nearest £1): £30 | |

IT COULD BE YOU. THE NATIONAL LOTTERY.



Possible Gascoigne move sets off scramble for signature

The news that Paul Gascoigne could be available for transfer has alerted at least three English clubs. Aston Villa and Tottenham Hotspur could face competition for the Rangers midfielder from an unlikely source - Crystal

Paul Gascoigne trained with Rangers yesterday as specula-

Palace. Alan Nixon reports

tion grew that he could soon be buying club would also have to quiries, while Palace are also leaving Glasgow in order to return to England

Sources at Rangers said that Aston Villa and Tottenham Hotspur had inquired about Gascoigne's availability, but that a third club - believed to be Crystal Palace - were also in the frame.

It is understood that Gascoigne has not yet decided whether he wants to leave Ibrox, although Rangers have hinted that he could leave the club if he so wished. The transfer fee would probably be between £3m and £4m, while the

match Gascoigne's current wages, believed to be around £40,000 per week

There have been reports that Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, advised Gascoigne that a return to English football would help him in his preparations for the World Cup next year. Gascoigne is understood to have spoken to Mel Stein, his solicitor and agent, about a possible transfer while he was on World Cup duty with England last week.

Villa and Tottenham are believed to have made firm in-

understood to have expressed an interest. Everton have also been suggested as a possible destination for the Rangers midfielder.

Villa are unlikely to conduct any negotiations until after their Uefa Cup match away to Athletic Bilbao next Tuesday. Brian Little, the Villa manager, refused to be drawn on the issue yesterday. "We don't talk about players who are under contract to other football clubs," he said. "It is not a policy of ours, never has been and never will be." However, after Villa's dis-

appointing start to the season Gascoigne could be seen as the man to revive their fortunes. There were recriminations at Villa Park yesterday following Wednesday's 3-0 Coca-Cola Cnp defeat at West Ham, with Gareth Southeate, the captain, accusing his colleagues of lacking desire.

"What happened at West Ham wasn't acceptable, and it's happened on too many occasions this season," Southgate said. "We didn't play with enough desire to get anything out of the game. I don't want to go into individuals, but I do

want to talk about the team and as a group of players we sequence of the financial supneed to pull our fingers out and liven np."

Southgate, who has taken over the captaincy from the departed Andy Townsend, said he did not think he should have to motivate the players. "I think we have to look at ourselves as a team of players and to look at ourselves individually to decide which way we want to go. If we want to play like we did at West Ham, like a middle of the table side, then we're going the right way about it."

Palace's interest in Gas-

coigne is believed to be a conport they bave received in recent months from a fan, Mark Goldberg, a Londonbased multi-millionaire businessman. Goldberg helped with the recruitment of Attilio Lombardo, Palace's Italian international, and is understood

to be an acquaintance of Stein. There has been a flurry of transfer activity at Selhurst Park this week. Ivano Bonetti. the Italian midfielder who has also played for Grimsby and Tranmere, has joined Palace on a week-to-week basis, while an

exchange deal is being lined an to bring the Wolves full-back Jamie Smith to Selburst Park! with the forward Dougie Freed. man and the defender Kevin Muscat moving in the other di-

Freedman's contract runs out at the end of the season and the Scottish striker is understood to be keen to move after failing to win a regular firstteam place this season. Muscat a 24-year-old Australian, is believed to want to move for similar reasons. -

Gascoigne conundrum page 30

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INSI



Australia's Stuart Appleby plays out of a bunker at the 11th against France's Marc Farry at St Andrews yesterday. Appleby won, but France advanced 2-1 in the upset of the day

Photograph: David Ashdown

Alterations to the Old Course receive mixed reception

Alterations that have been made to the famous Old Course at St Andrews received a mixed reaction on the opening day of the Alfred Dunhill Cup. Andy Farrell reports.

The great attraction of this event is the venue. St Andrews has been steeped in golf longer than anywhere else in the world. Even the New Course here is more venerable than most elsewhere and the Old Course is exactly that, the oldthe balf-and-stick game.

Ondi now that is, the Oid Course has been changed. The Auld Lady has been placed on a rack and extended by 161 yards. Six new tees have been built in an attempt to increase the level of torture experienced by modern-day professionals with their hi-tech balls and state of the art clubs.

Action was needed after John Daly won the Open bere two years ago. His victory was not unexpected. Michael Bonallack, the secretary of the Royal & Ancient - who are more forward thinking than their image suggests - profited

est, most unchanging setting for from a wager that Long John vant," the English captain said. would prevail that week.

evolved - it was once played the "other way round", i.e. from the first tee to the 17th green - but the trouble with the links was that the difficulties, represented by pot bunkers with names such the Coffins and the Principal's Nose, were no longer in play not just for Daly, hut a whole host of other big hitters.

Colin Montgomerie and Ernie Els approve of the changes. "I cannot see any negatives to the changes," Els said. One of the old guard, Mark James, disagrees. "Unimaginative, unnecessary and irrele-

"If a course is obviously thing about it. This is obviously flawed because if you carry the ball 270 yards off the tee. there isn't a bunker in play. But that still exists. It doesn't make a difference for the gorillas. It's wide open. You can reduce it to

nothing. So I'm told."
At this point, James looked for guidance from his more youthful, long-hitting countryman Lee Westwood. "Mark plays a game with which I am not accustomed," the youngster chided his elder. "You won't want to become accustomed to it." James replied.

Westwood and Russell Claydon eight birdies in his first 12 holes. at the first extra hole to beat the group's top seeds, America, who dropped a point to Argentina. There was not much subtlety about the English strategy. Claydon, at 16 stone and more, was put out against the lightest Japanese player, Tsukasa Watanabe, and told to "flatten" his opponent. This he did only thanks to Watanabe's double-bogey at the Road Hole, the 17th, one that

is in no need of making tougher. Justin Leonard set what is the new course record of 65, later equalled by Sweden's Jesper Parnevik, and had Curtis Strange's previous mark of 62

court hearing, scheduled for

next Tuesday and the president

of the international governing

body, Max Mosley, indicated

that Williams should drop their

case. He said Villeneuve risked

not only losing his two polots

from Japan but also disqualifi-

cation for the concluding Eu-

ropean Grand Prix, at Jerez,

which would hand the title to

the German. Mosley, however,

insisted he was not threatening

have interpreted the message to

that effect and announced yes-

terday that "having reviewed all

relevant circumstances" they

A brief statement concluded:

"The two points awarded to

Jacques in Japan have been

withdrawn and the penalty of a

suspended one-race ban imposed

on him at the Italian Grand Prix

JAPANESE GRAND PRIX (Suzukti) Revised results and standings after disqualification of Japanes Villanteurs I M Schumacher (Ger) Frank 11: 29 min 18.4 48 per (see speed 207508 liph); 2 H-H Frantzion (Ger) Williams, Farnut + 1378 per, 3 E intra (GE) Frank + 20054, 4 M Heiddine Frij McLaren-Neccodes + 27129; 5 J Aleal (Fr) Senetton-Remout + 401405 B J Herburt (GE) Surious-Remout

Friday 17 October 1947

Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01988 840370.

has been discharged".

had withdrawn the appeal.

Clearly, however, Williams

the Oxfordshire-based team.

never thought I would be eight under on this course. I was not hitting it close, but holing a lot of 10 to 15 footers."

But with Brad Faxon losing to Angel Cabrera 68-72, the result of the match was decided when Mark O'Meara beat Eduardo Romero at the first extra hole. Romero birdied the 17th to bring the match level, but then went in the burn at the first.

The day's upset came from France, who beat Australia 2-1. Fabrice Tarnaud matched Robert Allenby's birdie at the last to win by one, while Jean

The English trio of James, within his sights when he had Van de Velde holed from 25 feet

That leaves Sweden, who defeated Taiwan 3-0, in command in Group Two, while South Africa and Scotland both came out 2-1 winners over Ireland and Germany respectively in what should be the most closely fought group. Scores, Sporting Digest, page 31

Ferguson rules Keane

out of finals

The Manchester United man ager, Alex Ferguson, yesterday ruled the Republic of Ireland midfielder Roy Keane out of next year's World Cup finals.

Ferguson does not believe Keane can recover from the cruciate ligament injury he suf-fered against Leeds earlier this? month in time to play in France. should the Republic beat Belgium in the play-offs.

"I think we could have him back training in April, but there's a big difference between training and taking part in football," Ferguson said. "You're" looking more to the start of next season rather than the start of the World Cup in June." Although the Argentinian

club River Plate have now expressed an interest in selling their Chilean international striker Marcelo Salas, Ferguson has denied that a move to United is imminent for Salas.

Blackburn Rovers are to allow their Danish striker Per Pedersen to join the German side Borussia Mönchengladbach on loan for the season.

. The Southampton striker Egil Ostenstad is to consult a specialist after breaking down with a recurrence of the ankle injury which has dogged him all season. The Norwegian, who failed to complete the first half of Tuesday's Coca-Cola Cup tie against Barnsley, could be out several months.

Tottenham have denied reports that their striker Les Fer. dinand has had a second operation on a stomach muscle injury and will be out of action for up to three months. He had a minor operation to cure an abdominal strain last Friday.

You'll see our

patterns in other

cutlers' brochures.

But you won't

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD No. 3432. Friday 17 Octobe G L O A E S DEFILISE RIBAND

ACROSS Game in which viewers are kent in the dark? (5-4, 4)

10 Stars from old city appeal to Barbara, for instance (4, 5) 11 Coin head uppermost (5) 12 Over in Syria hitchhiking's fraught with danger (5)
13 Instrument attached to nev

sander is odd (6-3) 14 Royal attendant and king getting entangled in Eastem question (7) 16 Building may be seen by

journalist provided formality's adhered to (7) 18 Soon English will be curtailed to accommodate religious education, see (7) 20 Register shows account

opened by staff in Los Angeles (7)
21 Part-time soldier strives desperately to protect sov-

Large vessel from Korea or Taiwan (5) 24 Extremists from Austria reg-

ularly interrupting writer's hymn of praise (5) 25 Drinks supplier with maga-zine to deliver (9) 26 I'm cotertained in a way that's impossible to put a

figure on (13) DOWN 2 Weariness with which Scots girl's accepted bet you of-fered ultimately (9) Short time taken up by anti-development campaigner?

> Greatness and goodness there's a witticism in that (7) Tell North American artist to infiltrate Irish broadcasting (7) Subtle trace one found in

sponge suggests infective agent (9) Meal for 4 divided by 50? Sticks paper underneath grapevine (4,9)

> beian can be above reproach (13) River depicted by painter in Gironde resort (3,6) 17 Get more drunk in pub on street extremely near centre

> > 19 Observe Government leader and one politician in university establishment (7) 20 Anuthetical expression from eulogist of Caesar, J?

It shows how much a ple-

22 Way German article defines "beer-mug" (5) 23 Pale woman seen in centre of verandah (5)

MOTOR RACING

Villeneuve appeal withdrawn

Williams-Renault have taken the path of least resistance and accepted Jacques Villeneuve's punishment, which shifts the balance of the world championship in Michael Schumacher's favour. Derick Allsop reports

Williams-Renault have withdrawn their appeal against Jacques Villeneuve's disqualification at the Japanese Grand Prix, so forfeiting his two points and sending him into the final race of the Formula One world championship, on Sunday week, trailing Ferrari's Michael Schumacher by a point.

Villencuve raced under appeal at Suzuka last Sunday after the stewards invoked a one-race ban - imposed at last month's Italian Grand Prix but suspended for nine races - on the Canadian for failing to slow down at yellow warning flags. He finished fifth, which provisionally kept him ahead of Schumacher, the race winner.

Few gave Villeneuve any hope of keeping the two points he earned at an FIA appeal

Pazienza has to pay fine to meet Graham

BOXING

Vinnie Pazienza, a twice former world champion, will have to pay an outstanding fine of \$5,000 (£3,200) for hitting a refcree if he is to fight Herol Graham on 6 December.

Pazienza is serving a 90-day suspension imposed by the New Jersey Commission for striking the official, Tony Orlando, in his last fight, against Dana Rosenblatt 14 months ago. Unless the American pays up, the British Board of Control will not allow him to meet Graham at the Goresbrook Leisure Centre in Dagenham. However, Pazinenza's man-

ager, Art Pelullo, insists the fine will be paid shortly. Pazienza floored Orlando

after stopping Rosenblatt in the fourth round of a World Boxing Union super-middleweight title fight in August 1996.

Graham's promoter, Frank Maloney, is ready to offer \$1 m to the winner to meet either Robin Reid, the World Boxing Council title holder, or Joe Calzaghe, who has the World Boxing Organisation crown.

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